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INSIDE

NATION



Through a wall at his Rhode Island hotel, Aaron Alexis could hear them—voices harassing him, wanting to harm him.

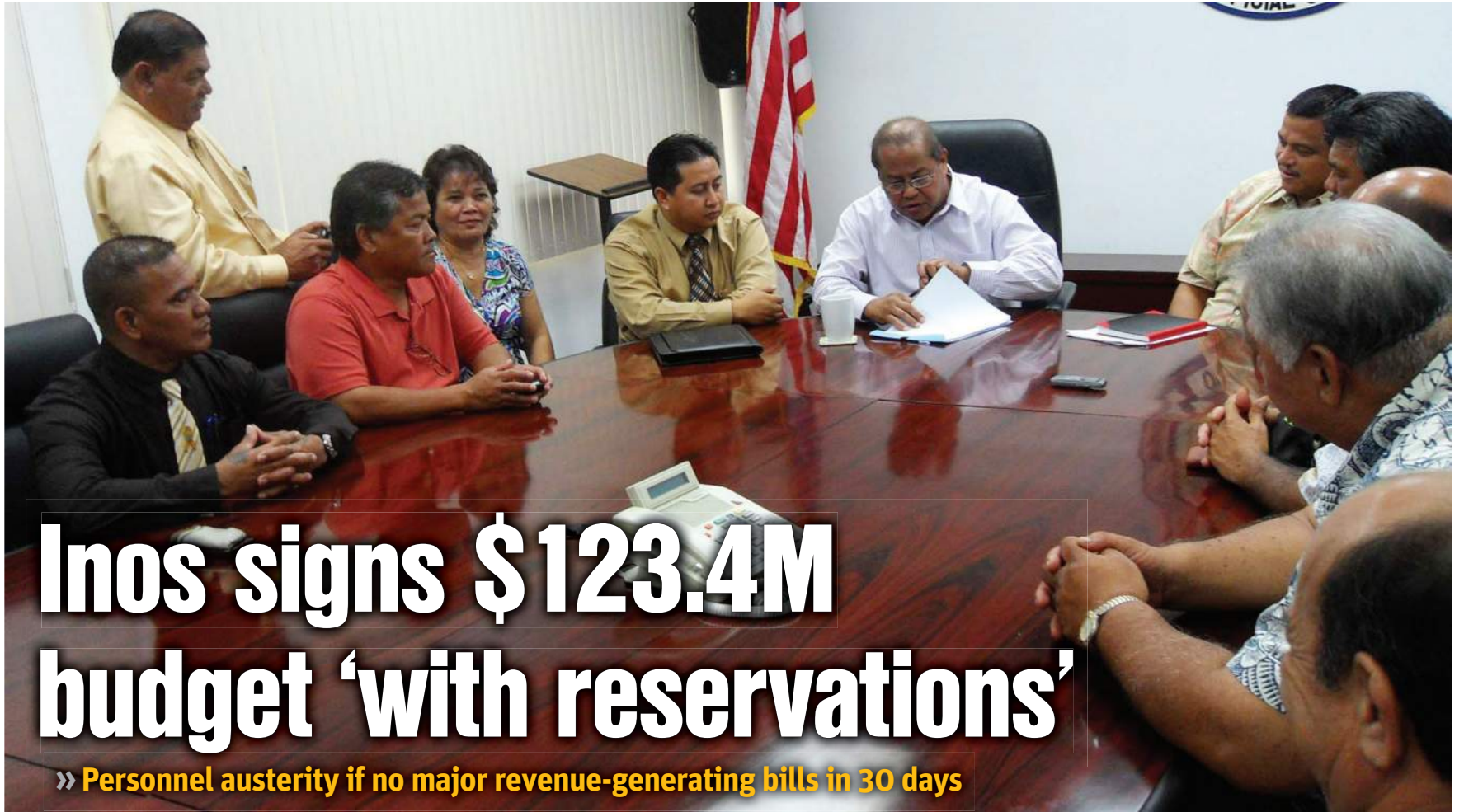
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WORLD



Russia insisted Tuesday that a U.N. Security Council resolution governing Syria's handling of its chemical weapons not allow the use of force.

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Inos signs \$123.4M budget 'with reservations'

» Personnel austerity if no major revenue-generating bills in 30 days

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos signed into law yesterday a \$123.4-million budget bill “with reservations,” and asked the Legislature to act on “new and major” revenue-generating measures “within the next 30 days” or he “may be forced to implement austerity measures which may affect personnel services.”

Inos, Covenant Party members rejoining GOP

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

In a move that changes yet again the CNMI's political landscape, Gov. Eloy S. Inos got last night the Covenant Party's support for his 2014 gubernatorial candidacy, a reunification with the Republican Party, and the dissolution of the Covenant Party.

Inos and Covenant Party officials

will meet again with GOP officers to finalize the reunification or merger.

Although not specifically discussed in last night's meeting at the Garapan Roundhouse, Inos has picked Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) as his running mate in 2014.

The party reunification or merger was a major hurdle in having Inos as gubernatorial candidate and Torres as

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▲ Gov. Eloy S. Inos, middle, signs into law a \$123.4-million budget bill “with reservations,” while Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider and lawmakers look on at 12:15pm yesterday on Capital Hill.

These austerity measures could include work hour cuts once again.

The governor signed the fiscal year 2014 budget bill into Public Law 18-18 in the presence of Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider, House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), Senate President

Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), and most lawmakers at 12:15pm.

That was after a closed-door meeting with lawmakers on the tentatively approved NMI Retirement Fund settlement

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One of Johnson's counsel withdraws attorney's claim

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A lawyer based in Honolulu, who claimed that he is also one of the counsels for Betty Johnson, yesterday withdrew his demand for payment of \$6,205.50 in attorney's fees.

Attorney Jared A. Washkowitz informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI that he withdraws his notice of attorney's lien filed on Aug. 13, 2013.

Washkowitz said his withdrawal of the lien was based on an agreement he reached with attorney Bruce Jorgensen, one of the counsels for Johnson, regarding payment of his attorney's fees.

The Honolulu lawyer did not elaborate.

In his Aug. 13 notice of attorney's lien, Washkowitz said legal services were retained to help the then two unnamed plaintiffs obtain a dismissal of the appeal by the CNMI government and the NMI

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Jesse Tudela is new hospital services director. PAGE 2
Freedom Air gets 90-day reprieve. PAGE 5



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Local

Jesse Tudela is new hospital services director

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A long-time public school educator and a certified respiratory therapist was named as the new hospital services director for the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., a position once held by Karen Buettner who was fired from the post.

Corporation interim CEO Esther Muna confirmed yesterday that Jesse Tudela is now the new hospital services chief following a decision made by the hospital's governing body com-

prised of the CEO, COO, director for medical affairs, and the chief financial officer.

Muna disclosed that the decision was reached during the governing body's meeting last Sept. 4 when Tudela was appointed as Buettner's replacement.

Tudela retired from the Public School System in December where he was honored for his dedication to the profession and being an effective school administrator for Saipan Southern High School. The 35-year-old educator started



Tudela

working for PSS in 2001.

Early this year, he joined the healthcare industry and was

hired at the hospital's respiratory care department where he is also the manager. In a few occasions, Tudela has served as the hospital services director in an acting capacity.

Saipan Tribune learned that his selection to the permanent position was a result of his proven capability to handle the critical position. Tudela was not available when asked for comment yesterday.

Meantime, although the board is not yet aware of the new appointment, CHCC board chair Joaquin Torres yesterday

expressed his support to the decision made by the governing body. Saipan Tribune learned that the board in its previous meeting had recommended the advertisement of all vacant positions at the hospital, including the hospital services director.

This way, he said, the corporation can determine the best qualified candidate for these critical jobs.

When Buettner was still on-board as hospital services director, she was receiving \$80,000 annually. There was no telling if the same compensation is provided to the newly appointed hospital services chief.

Saipan Tribune learned that a

hospital director is an individual whose main responsibility is to administer the different divisions of the hospital. Similar to a manager, he introduces, controls and at the same time follows the existing rules and policies governing the hospital in order to attain its main objective and that is to provide and to assure quality healthcare services to patients. Hospital director has a broad range of responsibility because every unit of the hospital and related medical facilities are to be watched over for his will be the one accountable for whatever problems that will occur on the day-to-day hospital's operation.

'Care packages bound for CNMI troops in Afghanistan'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Joseph S. Taitano, 44, says he and his wife Emily talk to their daughter in Afghanistan via video almost every day and that's also how often she tells them how she misses the family and just about everything about the island, including the food.

His daughter, Specialist Rita Sarah N. Taitano, was one of the 16 soldiers from the CNMI and among the more than 600 members of the Guam National Guard deployed in Afghanistan early this year.

That was the largest group of reserve component troops to be mobilized and deployed from the Marianas.

"She misses the assorted canned goods, rice crackers, chips, spicy soba, you name it. So I am thankful that the community has donated care packages that include almost everything my daughter misses," the older Taitano, of Kagman 3, told Saipan Tribune during the Legislature's presentation yesterday morning of donated "care packages" for CNMI troops, via the Family Readiness Group.

Specialist Taitano is the second oldest among four children.

"My daughter turned 21 in Afghanistan on Sept. 3," the father added.

The House of Representatives and Senate donated canned goods such as luncheon meat, canned tuna and corned beef, soba, Rota-made cookies, and other ready-to-eat packages, along with reading materials from the CNMI.

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) and Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), along with most lawmakers, personally presented the "care packages" to the families and supporters of the CNMI soldiers currently in Af-

ghanistan during a ceremony in the House chamber yesterday.

"Thank you for giving us the opportunity to help our troops," the speaker told the families of the CNMI troops.

The Senate president, for his part, said the care packages are only a "small token" to say "thank you" to the troops.

Marie Salas-Igitol, the lead person for the Family Readiness Group and wife and mother of two CNMI soldiers in Afghanistan, said she's thankful for lawmakers, their staff and the community in general for their generosity and thoughtfulness.

She is the wife of U.S. Army SPC Ivan Igitol, 48, and the mother of PFC Britney Igitol, 19, both deployed at the same time in Afghanistan.

Salas-Igitol said the Family Readiness Group plans to send the care packages to the deployed soldiers from the CNMI, as well as from Guam, by the end of this month.

Boxes for donations to troops are also available in other private and public sector entities such as IT&E, Joeten Susupe, Office of the Governor and Tan Holdings, among other things.

Vicky Marie Espayos, 43, said her son, PV2 Elbert M. Espayos, loves island food and he would be happy to receive packages from the CNMI community.

"He misses the local food here like barbecue. But I don't know if they can do barbecue there. For the donated care packages, I am happy and humbled by people's kindness and generosity," the mother from As Lito said.

Guam National Guard Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Benny Paulino, during a sendoff ceremony early this year, said care packages from the islands will serve as "treats and an oasis to the harsh environment they will be operating under."

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FAA: Tinian military exercise not properly coordinated in CNMI

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The U.S. Federal Aviation Administration yesterday warned the Commonwealth Ports Authority on what it describes as uncoordinated activities of the U.S. military in the CNMI.

The FAA warning couldn't come at a better time as the military is expected to conduct training exercise on Tinian beginning today.

Saipan Tribune learned that CPA officials were informed yesterday by Juan S. Reyes, an FAA airport certification safety inspec-

tor, of the arrival of military troops on Tinian which he believes was not properly coordinated with the CNMI ports authority.

CPA vice chair Benigno Sablan yesterday briefly mentioned in the open session about the latest correspondence from FAA Honolulu Office which he admitted pertains to the issues of lack of coordination to the ports authority. FAA's correspondence was discussed in the closed-door meeting of the board yesterday.

Sources disclosed that FAA had emphasized that prior to any military exercise in sites

where may potentially affect the airport facilities, there is a process that is required to be satisfied by any party including the U.S. military.

However, it was learned that FAA was only made aware of today's training exercise on Tinian at the last minute and no prior coordination or official approval from the ports authority was secured. No scope of work was also provided to the CPA, it was learned.

Sources revealed that it was only yesterday morning that FAA and CPA were informed of the training activity which is expected to involve the arrival of helicopters and other military equipment.

Saipan Tribune learned that last week, the military conduct-

ed the same exercises in Guam but there was no information that the same training will be extended to Tinian.

According to CPA legal counsel Robert Torres, the board discussed during the executive session the "need to ensure coordination with CPA and military" on any activities that are being planned in and nearby the airport premises.

Torres confirmed the arrival of military troops on Tinian today. He pointed out that such activities "always need to be coordinated."

Saipan Tribune learned that FAA reminded CPA that, prior to any exercises that take place on airport premises, there are important concerns that need to be satisfied such as confirma-

tion of the ports authority approval of the requested activity.

Also emphasized by the federal agency, it was learned, is the importance of having an implementation plan and the ground operations plan particularly in military activities. Airfield safety briefing, meetings with potentially affected tenants

must also be ensured by the CPA before an approval is accorded to such requested activity.

During yesterday's meeting, acting CPA executive director Ed Mendiola told the board that he is still seeking more information from Tinian ports authority regarding the military exercise scheduled today.

Driver denies beating, claims boy tried to extort money from him

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Han Tai Lin, the driver of an alleged illegal taxi accused of beating up and threatening to kill a teen passenger, testified yesterday in Superior Court where he denied the charges and claimed that the boy actually tried to extort money from him.

Assistant public defender Matthew Meyer called his client, Lin, to the witness stand after the prosecution rested its case.

After assistant attorneys general Nicole Driscoll and Brian Flaherty announced that the government rested its case, Meyer and attorney Colin Thompson, counsel for Lin's co-defendant Ji Jing Borja, moved for judgment of acquittal.

Camacho dismissed one count of criminal contempt and one count of assault and battery against Borja.

Camacho, however, ruled that the government was able to present enough evidence to proceed with the trial as to the charges of assault with a dangerous weapon, kidnapping, and conspiracy to commit kidnapping against Lin.

The judge also found sufficient evidence to proceed with the trial as to the charges of kidnapping and conspiracy to commit kidnapping against Borja.

Camacho placed under advisement as to the charges of assault and battery and disturbing the peace against Lin, and as to the charge of disturbing the peace against Borja.

After the judge announced his ruling, the defense started calling their witnesses, including Lin.

Through an interpreter, Lin testified that the boy called for a taxi in Kagman and asked to be dropped in Tanapag on Oct. 7, 2012.

At the time, the boy was 16 years old.

Lin said while driving in the direction of Capital Hill, the boy threatened him that if he would not give him money as he would tell his father to put him in jail because he was engaged in illegal taxi.

The defendant said he told the boy to get down because he was

scared of his threat.

Lin said the boy only smiled. He said with the boy still in the taxi, he proceeded to Garapan to pick up another passenger, Borja.

Lin said before picking up Borja, he stopped the taxi near the American Memorial Park where he told the boy again to get down. He said the boy did not do anything.

The driver said while on Middle Road on their way to Tanapag, the boy grabbed his bag and told him to open the door.

Lin said after he stepped on the brakes, the boy suddenly jumped out. Lin said he turned the car around because he was scared that the boy was injured or hurt.

Lin said he later proceeded to Mariana Resort and Spa where he dropped off Borja, who asked him to wait for a few minutes.

He said he then dropped Borja off at the 99 Cents area in Garapan, then he went home.

Lin said after that, he did not work that day because he was scared.

Lin said after a week, his neighbor told him that police officers stopped by his house. He said he was not there at that time.

Lin said he was thinking that police would arrest him because of the boy's threat so he contacted Borja to help him.

Asked by Meyer why he asked Borja's help, Lin said Borja could speak English and he was his witness.

Lin said he and Borja went to the police station then later to the Office of the Attorney General where they told what really happened.

Lin said at the OAG he talked with a certain Babauta and "that person," pointing to assistant attorney general Flaherty.

"I explained everything," the defendant said, referring to his meeting with Babauta and Flaherty.

Lin also pointed out that he and Borja are not good friends as he only met him once or twice.

Lin also denied that he threatened the boy with a screwdriver and punched or slapped him.

Assistant attorney general Driscoll will continue his cross-examination on Lin today, Thursday, at 8:30am.

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CNMI, Guam governors meet on military, economic issues

Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo and CNMI Gov. Eloy S. Inos will meet today on Saipan to discuss issues of mutual interests including the economy and the U.S. military's plans in the Marianas.

Joining the governors are

Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider and other local officials.

Press secretary Angel Demapan confirmed that the Guam-CNMI Summit "will signal the start of a series of meetings between the two governments to address is-

suues of mutual interest and to formulate mutually beneficial solutions for the CNMI and Guam."

"For this initial meeting, Governor Inos and Governor Calvo will lead discussions surrounding current issues

such as military realignment, health care, economic development and opportunities for economic exchange," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

The summit comes two weeks after a two-day regional security roundtable in Guam

hosted by the Guam-U.S.-Asia Security Alliance, or GUASA.

The CNMI-Guam summit comes at a time when the U.S. military is laying out its plans for the islands including building a divert airfield on Saipan

despite the CNMI's unified request to place it on Tinian, and development of live-fire training ranges on Tinian and Pagan which raises concerns among residents. **(Haidee V. Eugenio)**

Man slapped with 5-year jail term for possession of less than 2 grams of 'ice'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho yesterday slapped a maximum of five years in prison against a man who was found in possession of less than two grams of methamphetamine or "ice."

Camacho ordered Xuguang Li to serve the five years day by day without the possibility of parole. He also required the defendant to pay a \$2,000 fine.

"It is the drug users that keep the drug dealers in busi-

ness. There can be no justice without the appropriate punishment," the judge told the 36-year-old Li.

Camacho said the destructive force of "ice" has contributed to hardships of families with depleted bank accounts and termination from employment.

Camacho said "ice" has been linked to domestic violence, turned addicts into thieves or prostitutes to sup-

port their illegal habit.

"Ice" has invaded the rank file of our law enforcement forces and the very halls of the CNMI legislature," he pointed out.

Li was convicted on the charge of illegal possession of controlled substance during a bench trial on Sept. 5, 2013.

Assistant public defender Matthew Meyer served as counsel for Li. Assistant attorney general Jacinta Kaipat prosecuted the case.



Camacho

Police detective Roque K. Camacho stated in his report that on March 11, 2013 while he was driving a vehicle on Martinez Road in Koblerville he saw Li, one of the three suspects in a burglary and theft case, walking on the shoulder of the southbound lane.

Camacho said he stopped his unmarked police vehicle, got down, talked to Li, and asked for his identification card.

The detective said Li took out a plastic bag from his left front pocket and threw it behind him.

Camacho said he checked the bag and found it contained a baggie with 1.20 gross grams of substance that turned out presumptive positive for "ice" during the field test.

UNTIL SUNSET FRIDAY

Governor orders flags at half-staff for Navy Yard victims

Gov. Eloy S. Inos ordered yesterday an immediate lowering of U.S. and CNMI flags to honor the victims of Monday's shootings at the Navy Yard in Washington, D.C. that claimed 12 lives.

The governor ordered that flags be lowered to half-staff

until sunset on Friday.

The governor followed President Barack Obama's proclamation.

Obama ordered the immediate lowering of the U.S. flags nationwide "as a mark of respect for the victims of the senseless acts of violence per-

petrated on September 16, 2013 at the Washington Navy Yard."

"Therefore, in support of the victims and their families, I hereby order the immediate lowering of the CNMI flag along with the U.S. flag to half-staff until sunset on September 20, 2013," the governor said in

his one-page memo yesterday to all department and activity heads.

As of yesterday, authorities have not uncovered the specific reason as to what spurred Aaron Alexis to fatally shoot 12 people at Washington's Navy Yard. **(Haidee V. Eugenio)**

BUDGET

From Page 1

agreement.

At the signing ceremony, Inos described the budget bill as "not a perfect document."

The speaker said a House bill will be pre-filed soon to amend the newly-signed budget law to correct an oversight involving a missing \$80 million in the NMI Retirement Fund's 2014 operations funds.

Without this "correction" bill, the Fund would only have \$4 million in FY 2014, enough to pay only one full pension in FY 2014.

In a brief interview after the signing, the governor said his office is now preparing a proposed supplemental budget of "at least \$14 million" for the NMI Retirement Fund and the Group Health and Life Insurance Plan.

The newly signed budget law provides \$20 million remittance to the Retirement Fund, and this is double the amount that the government pumped into the Fund in FY 2013.

But the government needs to appropriate more to meet the tentatively approved Fund settlement agreement's requirement.

"As I have indicated in sever-

al leadership meetings with the members of the Legislature, an additional \$12 million is needed to meet our initial payment under the Settlement Agreement," he said in his transmittal letter to the Legislature, copies of which were sent late yesterday afternoon.

Prior to the budget signing, the governor held a closed-door meeting on the settlement agreement.

Hours later, the Senate session adjourned its afternoon session without the introduction of any resolution expressing support to those who opt out of the settlement deal.

'Record speed'

The governor said the Legislature passed a budget bill at "record speed."

This has been the smoothest budget process in recent period, ensuring that there won't be a government shutdown.

"Yes there are more wants than needs. I'm sure we can continue to identify (additional) sources of revenues," Inos told lawmakers in the governor's conference room.

The Senate president and House Ways and Means Committee chair Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan) said the signing of the budget law ahead of the Sept.

30 deadline gives comfort to the public that there won't be any government shutdown.

"It's enough that we're challenged with limited resources so they don't need the additional anxiety as a result of a lack of passage of budget so we thank everybody for that," Inos said at the bill signing.

The governor, as well as the presiding officers of the Legislature, thanked lawmakers, the conference committee members, and the Office of Management and Budget for working together to ensure the budget is passed.

The Legislature sent the spending package, House Bill 18-98, House Draft 6, Senate Substitute 1, Conference Committee Substitute 1, to the governor last week.

Austerity

In his budget cover letter to the Legislature, the governor said the paramount goal is to maintain fiscal sustainability in the midst of meager resources.

"While we see growth in the local economy, serious implications lie ahead if additional revenue-generating measures are not in place to address our current obligations to the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund," he said.

This is the additional \$12 million needed to meet the government's initial payment under the settlement deal.

"Without the enactment of any new and major revenue generating measures within the next 30 days, I may be forced to implement austerity measures which may affect personnel services. This is certainly a route I deeply prefer to avert. Thus, I urge you to act on measures critical towards addressing the Commonwealth's current financial needs," he said.

'10 reservations'

Inos cited 10 specific reservations about the budget bill he signed into law.

These include a reduction in the governor's reprogramming authority flexibility from the current 100 percent to 50 percent in FY 2014.

"At a time when resources are limited, maximum flexibility is necessary in the reallocation of appropriated funds so as not to impair delivery of essential public services," he told the Legislature.

He pointed to major cuts in utilities allocation made to Rota and Tinian, NMASA, and the Office of Personnel Management totaling \$539,190 and

CLAIM

From Page 1

Retirement Fund to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

One of the unnamed plaintiffs was later disclosed as Johnson.

Jorgensen and three other counsels for Johnson are asking the federal court to ap-

prove their attorneys' fees and costs in the total amount of over \$40 million.

The hearing on Johnson's attorneys' fees and costs will be held on Sept. 30, 2013, which is also the date for the final approval of the global settlement in Johnson's class action against the Fund and the CNMI government.

"were redistributed among respective departments and agencies for non-utility expenditures."

While the budget law provides for the amended salaries of the Finance and Commerce secretaries, it did not address the governor's request to include the salary of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs secretary at \$54,000.

"Since these changes require a change in permanent law, I urge the passage of a separate legislation amending 1 CMC Section 8245 at the earliest possible time," Inos said.

He said Section 704 Subsection (b) mandates the Veterans Affairs Office to allocate one employee each to Tinian and Rota but without explanation of the duties provided to support this provision.

The governor said Section 709 Subsection 2 mandates the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library to allocate one librarian aide each for Rota and Tinian. But he also noted that one additional employee is already allocated and funded under Rota's appropriations for the Rota Public Library.

Inos said the budget measure's Section 605 or the public auditor's fee did not address the

administration's recommendations to include a provision to ensure government corporations pay outstanding public auditor's fees from prior fiscal years.

The recommendation also requires all payments made by a government corporation pertaining to such outstanding fees to be deposited into the "Deferred Defined Benefit Restoration Fund."

Inos also sought further clarification of the definition of "part-time" employees not performing more than 40 hours in any bi-weekly period that shall not require an approved NOP. Section 103 allows only certain agencies to employ part-time employees.

The governor also noted that the bill did not recognize the need for advance allotments to the CNMI Scholarship program to issue education assistance grant awards and honors scholarship.

He also pointed to the missing \$80 million in the Retirement Fund operations budget.

"As it stands, the omission of some \$80 million limits NMIRF's operational expenditure to \$4,030,350, an amount that does not cover even a month's operating expenses," he told the Legislature.

Freedom Air gets 90-day reprieve

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Freedom Air can continue using Commonwealth Ports Authority facilities for its operations despite having \$1.23 million in outstanding arrears incurred the past three years.

This after the Commonwealth Ports Authority board of directors yesterday delayed the enforcement of the eviction notice supposedly due today, Sept. 19.

By a vote of 4-3, the board gave Freedom Air a 90-day extension to settle its arrears with CPA. Board vice chair Benigno Sablan and members Barrie Toves, Fermin Sakisat, and Michael San Nicolas voted in favor of the extension, while chair Jose Lifofoi and members Thomas “Kiyu” Villagomez and Frances Mafnas opposed it.

Lifofoi in particular was disappointed that majority of the board thumbed down his request to have them hear first the opinion of CPA legal counsel Robert Torres before conducting the voice vote.

So as it stands now, Freedom Air has until Dec. 31, 2013 to settle its unpaid obligations to CPA, especially the passenger facility charges as required by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration. The board said failure to do would force them to “kick out” the company from its premises, with finality.

CPA board last August unanimously voted to terminate and issue an eviction notice to the airline due to its long overdue account with the ports authority. It was earlier revealed that Freedom Air, in many occasions, was issued termination notices which none were actually implemented.

Minutes before yesterday's board meeting, Freedom Air

general manager on Saipan Dennis Cruz was seen in the gallery but left as soon as the meeting started.

After adopting the day's agenda, Sablan immediately made a motion to stay the eviction notice for Freedom Air and to delay its enforcement for 90 days—or until the end of the year—a motion immediately countered by Villagomez who described the 90-day recommended extension as “too much.”

Villagomez argued that Freedom Air had offered no single amount to pay CPA or any solid plan on how it would settle the unpaid obligation.

He added that he had a recent meeting with Freedom Air owner Joaquin Flores to see how CPA can assist the company on its current dilemma. Villagomez came out of the meeting disappointed after failing to secure a definite payment plan from the company.

“I informed Mr. Flores to negotiate with the executive director (MaryAnn Lizama) and see how much he can offer to clear the PFC (passenger facility charges). But he doesn't want to commit any numbers!” said Villagomez, saying he is supportive of giving Freedom Air a 30-day extension of the eviction notice but not 90 days as recommended by Sablan.

“He (Mr. Flores) is not even on the verge of getting some financial assistance to pay up CPA! One thing I know from our conversation is that the airline certificate, that's the gold mine that he is holding on to. If investors are interested in that certificate, I believe he can negotiate and if the CPA board is willing to listen to their offer, why not? I think the only way to help both the islands and the airline is to give them 30-day

notice so they can clear up the PFC and maybe the other (accounts) can come later. (But) if you don't come in and you don't pay anything, shut it down. I don't think it's helping the CNMI, I don't think it's helping the people of Rota and Tinian,” according to Villagomez, who then offered a subsidiary motion to seek first the legal counsel's opinion on the matter before voting is made.

Saipan Tribune reported that for failing to pay the federally required PFC in a timely manner, CPA risks not complying with the mandates of FAA, the federal organization that fully funds airport projects in the CNMI.

Because of this CPA may be exposed to an adverse ruling from the FAA in the future. Freedom Air owes \$273,500 in PFC payments to Saipan, \$148,392 to Rota, and \$202,275 to Tinian.

Board member Frances Mafnas aired her concerns to her colleagues. “I support the concerns (from two islands). But I want to make sure also that CPA complies with the grant assurance with PFC collection (with FAA),” she told the board. According to Mafnas, a former comptroller of CPA, she was part of the management that applied the grant assurance of PFC to FAA in 2004. Like Villagomez, she wanted to seek the legal counsel's opinion regarding the grant assurance.

However, Sablan was firm in his desire to proceed with the “voting” for his motion, despite requests from Villagomez, Mafnas, and Lifofoi to listen first to the legal opinion of Torres.

“Can I request that before we vote (on the motion), let's hear first our legal counsel (opinion on the matter),” asked Lifofoi,



MONETH G. DEPOSA

Board member Thomas Kiyu Villagomez, right, gestures as he seeks advice from Commonwealth Ports Authority legal counsel Robert Torres (not in photo) during yesterday's board meeting. To Villagomez' right is board member Benigno Sablan.

who was immediately countered by Sablan.

“That wasn't the consensus of the board members, Mr. chairman. So for the second time, I called for the question,” said Sablan.

Also persistent to prove his point yesterday, Villagomez asked for a short recess to confer with the other board counsel, Janet King, if he can make the subsidiary motion which is to confer with Torres before a voting is made on Sablan's motion.

According to King, the board doesn't necessarily need a subsidiary motion to do that as long as the members agree to confer first with the legal counsel.

Then a separate motion was presented on the floor seeking votes to allow the legal counsel to speak, which was also defeated on the floor by a 4-3 vote. Sablan's group remained opposed to the idea to hear first the legal opinion on the matter.

Disappointed

After the meeting, Lifofoi admitted to *Saipan Tribune* that he

was disappointed on the refusal of his colleagues to hear the legal counsel's opinion on the Freedom Air issue.

Lifofoi confirmed that despite the absence of a formal communication from FAA regarding Freedom Air situation, the federal agency has raised some issues—through the board's legal counsel.

The chairman described the board's action as a “bad signal” for FAA, which fully funded airport projects and developments.

Lifofoi confirmed that “complaints” from other airport tenants have been received by the agency and the FAA, pertaining to the collection of PFC.

Not convinced

Toves, for his part, told members that he is not convinced that FAA would sanction CPA for the action it took on Freedom Air.

“I understand that I have fiduciary duty for CPA, but I am not convinced that FAA is threatening to sanction or make a ruling

that is detrimental to CPA with regards to PFC because I haven't seen any communication,” said Toves, adding that he is also concerned on the economic and social impact on Rota if Freedom Air is kicked out from ports authority premises.

Although the airline had outstanding obligation of \$1.23 million, Toves said Freedom Air is now faithfully paying the PFC. He said CPA, which assisted many of its tenants and customers in the past, must also extend the same gesture to Freedom Air. He urged that a business plan be asked from the airline to see if there's recovery for the company.

To date, he said, no other airline has come in and willing to fill the gap, and shortfall that can be created by Freedom Air if it is kicked out at this time.

For San Nicolas, “If we evict Freedom Air and runs out of business, how are we going to collect the arrears?” he asked, adding that he is in full support of extending the 90-day extension to the company.

DISCONNECTION NOTICE

IT&E would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of business on **September 23**, will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on that day. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before **September 23**.

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Tinian/Rota Office — up to 4:30pm
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Online payment — up to 9:00pm



MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority, hereby gives notice that a Regular Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Monday, September 23, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. at the MVA Conference Room San Jose Professional Building Saipan, MP 96950.

MEETING AGENDA

- 1) **Preliminary Matters**
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adoption of Agenda
 4. Adoption of Minutes — August 28, 2013
- 2) **Public Comments**
- 3) **Committee Reports**
 1. Finance
 2. Personnel
- 4) **New Business**
 1. Reorganization
 2. Expenditure for two quarters of FY 2014
- 5) **Old Business**
- 6) **Miscellaneous/Announcements**
- 7) **Executive Session**
- 8) **Adjournment**

/s/ James Nelson
Acting Chairman, MVA Board of Directors

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CUC to file supplemental petition on rate hike request

» CPUC hearing likely to happen in November

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. plans to file a supplemental petition to the rate petition it filed with the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission two months ago, according to Commonwealth Utilities Corp. CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren.

Based on the petition filed last July, CUC proposes a rate hike on electric base rate effective Oct. 1. Warren, however, said that due to the anticipated delay on the commission hearing, CUC would file a supplement to the petition in time for the anticipated November rate hearing.

"We do anticipate filing a supplement to the petition," Warren told *Saipan Tribune*. "The CPUC hearing will most likely be in November." The

chief financial officer pointed out that the July filing does not include any proposal to increase the LEAC of customers. LEAC stands for leveled energy adjustment clause and pertains to the fuel cost of CUC and one of the components of the customer's billing.

"We have no plans to increase the LEAC at this time," Warren pointed out. Asked when the new proposed rate hike for electric base will be implemented, Warren said everything depends on the CPUC.

"We do not know the target date until the commission sets the hearing date," he said.

According to CUC executive director Alan Fletcher, any changes to the LEAC must go through the CPUC. This would be a separate filing from the current petition.

Fletcher earlier disclosed that CUC, since 2006, has been incurring operating losses amounting to \$74 million.

"These operating losses are identified in our audited financial statements produced each

fiscal year. These losses result in the utility being severely underfunded, which results in deferred maintenance, lack of typhoon readiness, and general disrepair of the power, water, and wastewater systems," explained Fletcher to *Saipan Tribune*.

When asked about the supplemental petition, Fletcher admitted that CUC is still working on all the logistics.

"We are still working through all those logistics, so no decisions have been made. If and when a petition is developed for filing, we will be happy to share that that information. We do not have a hearing date as of yet, this is somewhat dependent on staffing at the CPUC," he added.

Based on the July petition, CUC proposed to slightly adjust its customers' electric base rate, which represents the amount CUC pays for all non-fuel cost to produce and deliver electricity.

Base rate also includes complying with the requirements of Stipulated Orders. A residential

customer using 300 kWh of electric service currently pays \$109.92 which would increase to \$111.50—or an increase of \$1.58—if granted by CPUC. For those residential users of 500 kWh, their monthly total of \$178.08 would increase to \$200.26—or an increase of \$22.18. A residential customer using 1,000 kWh of electric service currently pays \$382.97; that monthly total would increase to \$438.15—or increase of \$55.18.

CUC also filed a rate petition recommending increases in water, sewer, and electric base rates, which if granted, will take effect on Oct. 1, 2013. Besides these proposals, CUC also asked the commission that CUC's lowest income customers receive significant additional credit to save them money on their bills and to limit the impact of the proposed rate adjustment.

Under the same petition, CUC also recommended the implementation of a full cost-based rate to the government, public schools, hospital, and

the ports authority over a five-year period.

For many years, these classes of customers have been assessed a volume rate that is excess of the cost CUC incurs in providing service to them. CUC, in its petition, admitted that this is a well-intentioned program that helped subsidize residential and commercial water and wastewater rates. Unfortunately today, some government payers are no longer able to meet this obligation.

The full cost-based rate as recommended will result in a gradual reduction of each of these customer class' rates in each of the next five years.

CUC also proposed the restructuring of the electric Life-line rate with a plan that is more beneficial to the lowest-income customers who have minimal usage by offering a credit of up to \$28 per month for residential customers who have less than 200 kWh per month consumption.

USP4GG to rally against PH pork barrel on Sept. 21

The U.S. Pinoys for Good Government Marianas Chapter will be holding a town hall meeting and a peaceful rally against the pork barrel scam in the Philippines on Sept. 21, from 11am to 12:30pm at the Filcom Pavilion near the Sabalu Market in Susupe.

USP4GG is inviting all concerned and well-meaning people to attend the town hall meeting and peaceful rally.

Dr. Celia Lamkin, USP4GG Marianas Chapter chairperson for the CNMI and Guam, explains that Sept. 21 is the anniversary of a dark day in Philippine history:

"It was on this day in 1972 that martial law was declared in the Philippines by the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos. We are holding the rallies worldwide on this day to remind Filipinos to be ever vigilant in the continuous effort to keep government clean. Otherwise, another dark figure might again take advantage of the situation, lie to the people by picturing himself as their savior, and declare himself dictator for life."

USP4GG spokesperson Attorney Ted Laguatan stated: "In these rallies, we are urging President Benigno Simeon Aquino III to exercise strong moral leadership. He should have these unconscionable thieves disguised as public servants immediately arrested and prosecuted."

He said the Filipino people fully support Aquino in the difficult endeavor of riding the country of this terrible culture of institutional corruption.

"Throwing these wealthy and power politician thieves in jail sends a very strong message to government officials that corruption will no longer be tolerated."

The local chapter of the USP4GG will be holding the event the same day the USP4GG chapter in the

Philippines will be holding a public indignation and prayer rally called "Cry for Justice" at the Luneta Park, Manila in the Philippines.

Last Aug. 26, during the Million March at Luneta Park against the pork barrel scam, the USP4GG, through Liza Soriano, USP4GG Secretariat, led the said march's planning in securing the permit for the Luneta Park and providing marshals for the protection and security of the marchers and the surrounding environment at the event site.

Vonz Santos, USP4GG member from New Jersey, organized and provided free concert through its Filipinos Unite (FU) group of young artists for the march organizers and marchers during the said event.

A well-documented series of articles in the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, the country's largest newspaper, detailed how some prominent senators, congressmen, and appointed officials in the Philippines have systematically been stealing huge amounts of public funds over the years.

Janet Lim Napoles designed the scheme by establishing bogus non-government organizations supposedly providing various goods and services. The mind-boggling number of officials involved regularly channeled their so-called pork barrel funds to these straw organizations for supposed projects beneficial to the public.

No such projects actually exist, Napoles would funnel back around 70 percent of the funds to the official and keep 30 percent, a part of which she spreads to other minor agency officials who facilitate the release of funds.

One popular movie star senator is reported by the Commission on Audit to have diverted around \$30 million to bogus non-government organizations. (*Saipan Tribune*)



ALL SMILES

A student-teacher from Japan is all smiles as she shows her note during an orientation Sunday evening at the Marianas High School. She is part of a delegation visiting the island from a consortium of 10 universities in Japan led by Ehime University.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Drunken man invited to party, throws rocks at guests

Police arrested a man on Tuesday night in Garapan on charges that while intoxicated last July he threw several rocks toward the parking lot of an apartment in Garapan where a birthday party occurred and there were some children.

Marco W. Selepeo Fital, 33, was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon, criminal mischief, and disturbing the peace.

At yesterday's hearing, Super

ior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman increased Fital bail from \$10,000 to \$25,000 cash bail after learning that he has a bench warrant and criminal history.

Preliminary hearing will be on Sept. 24 at 1:30pm.

Detective Isapen Bokuku stated in her report that preliminary investigation showed that police officers responded to Casa De Felipe apartment in

Garapan after a caller reported to the Department of Public Safety on July 25 at 11:14pm about a man throwing rocks.

Bokuku said according to witnesses, Fital, who appeared drunk, walked to the parking lot where a birthday party was held for a boy and his family and friends.

Since Fital was just staring at the party, he was invited to eat. After eating, he threw his trash

on the table, scattering the food. Fital left the place after he was told to leave.

After a few minutes, Fital stood by the entrance of the apartment and started throwing about five rocks at the party site. People attending the party ran for safety.

Fital was later arrested. He was subsequently released as police then conducted a follow-up investigation. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Over 20 organizations to participate in coastal cleanup

By THOMAS A. MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Over 600 people have signed

up for the 28th Annual International Coastal Cleanup as of yesterday scheduled for Friday, Sept. 20, and Saturday,

Sept. 21, on Saipan. According to Coastal Resources Management ICC coordinator Nicole Schafer a

total of 23 organizations have officially signed up for this week's Saipan beach cleanups and more are still signing up.

"Cleanups are a great way to raise awareness and bring to the forefront our fight for trash-free seas," said Schafer.

Last year the CNMI had a total of 28 organizations and 2,035 volunteers that collected over 10,000 lbs of trash.

According to the ICC website more than 500,000 volunteers picked up 10 million lbs of trash around the globe during the 2012 ICC.

The organizations and groups that have so far signed up for Saipan's ICC include: GHD Inc., Saipan International School, U.S. Coast Guard, D&Q Saipan and

Cosmos Distributing, Saipan Community School, Pacific Oriental, Inc. dba POI Aviation, Mount Carmel School Sophomore, Lions Club International Region 2 District 204, Tan Holdings Adopt-A-Pavilion Team, Brabu Pharmacy and Wellness Center, Saipan Hash House Harriers, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Dental Care Saipan, Our LaoLao, Saipan Southern High School, Environmental Clubs, Youth Environmental Advocates, Rep. Felicidad T. Ogumoro, T.A.S.A. Inc., Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Families of 13 Fishermen, Environmental and Natural Resources Organization, Department of Public Lands, Division of Environ-

mental Quality and the Coastal Resources Management

CRM encourages all participating groups to cut down on waste by bringing their own reused plastic bags and working gloves for the event. However, CRM will be supplying trash bags and rubber gloves for those who need it.

Tinian hosted their coastal cleanup yesterday and over 225 people participated. Rota is scheduled to have their cleanup tomorrow.

To register your club or organization, contact Saipan coordinator Nicole Schafer, at 664-8312, Rota coordinator William Pendergrass at 532-0466, or Tinian coordinator Edwin Hofschneider, at 433-0494.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The ENRO club and students from the Northern Marianas College pose for the photo at the 2012 International Coastal Cleanup.

Hotel occupancy rate 94% in August

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands reported 94.01 percent occupancy among its 12-member hotels for August 2013, an 11-percent increase compared to August 2012.

HANMI said 69,882 of 74,338 available room nights sold in August 2013, compared to 61,565 of 74,462 of available room nights sold over the same period last year. Room rates were \$131.32 dur-

ing the month, compared to \$123.78 last August.

"2013 continues to be a banner year for the CNMI tourism market," said HANMI vice chair Gloria Cavanagh. "Although the fall season brings in lower occupancy rates, we still anticipate growth in order to maintain our double digit growth rate for the year. It is fantastic to see new buildings going up and old buildings being improved. This is a sign of

the optimism that our tourism economy is stirring."

So far this calendar year, hotel occupancy is at an average 85.28 percent, 11 percent higher than last year. The number is slightly over a healthy industry indicator average of 80 percent occupancy.

"As a community, we have to understand the fragility of the tourism economy," Cavanagh added. "Our competition is great. But if we work together to keep our islands clean and safe, we have an edge because of the natural beauty that is found in the CNMI."

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands was established in 1985 as a professional forum for the hospitality industry of the NMI. (HANMI)

Hopwood elects new PTSA officers

Hopwood Junior High School held its first PTSA meeting last Thursday and elected its PTSA officers for the year.

The turnout was a huge success with about 300 parents, staff, and students present to show their support to the school.

PTSA president Jimmy Sablan and Hopwood principal Jonas Barcinas welcomed all the parents by asking to them to be proactive and continue to support the school's effort to fulfill the Public School System's Strategic Priorities. They also asked support for school initiatives to help make the learning institution a purposeful community with high expectations for the students as well as high stakeholders involvement.

STUCO vice president Shoretalynn Mendiola also welcomed everyone with her own impromptu speech of encouragement and challenging the parents to engaged in their children's extracurricular activities as well.

The parents were reminded to help build a strong school culture by being actively involved in their children's education and simply making education a top priority in their daily conversation at home so they can succeed and also stay focus on the right direction and not be influenced by the negative and evil things that may lead them to failure.

The school administration shared their student achievement data, importance of the accreditation process, and other data about the school.

The school is always grateful with the turnout of parents and guardians, staff, and students during the monthly meeting. Still, they are encouraging the parents to please engage and be involved in anyway possible.

Barcinas encourages parents to partner with Hopwood as their is their duty to help make the school become the best learning institution for the students they serve each school year. (PR)



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT
Happy 17th birthday Svans! Hope Club Ice is nice. Love always, Stefano, Olga, Fantastica, and Bruno.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

JENNIFER DOCKTER
Law Office of F. Matthew Smith, LLC
2nd Floor, MIC Building, Chalan Monsignor Guerrero
San Jose Village
P.O. Box 501127
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 234-7455/234-7427
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

Attorneys for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, Plaintiff,
vs. Civil Action No. 03-0352D
ANGYUTA SHIPPING COMPANY, LTD., FIDEL A. MENDIOLA, FERMINA S. MENDIOLA, FIDEL S. MENDIOLA, JR., CELESTE S. MENDIOLA, and the Estate of DIMAS A. HOCOS, JUAN M. AYUYU, and DANIEL D. SASAKURA, Defendants. NOTICE OF AUCTION

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, CNMI Marshal, or any other person authorized by law hereinafter referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice that all of the right, title, and interest of the Defendants Fidel S. Mendiola, Jr. and Fermina S. Mendiola, in the following described, real properties situated in Rota, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Lot No. 345 R 215, an containing an area of 1,020 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat Number 345 R 05, dated May 11, 1984, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference;

and
Tract No. 22080, situated in Mue, Rota, CNMI, containing an area of 42,813 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing Cadastral Plat No. 2004/77, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as Document No. 7211, on March 1, 1978;

The auction sale will be open to the general public and will be held at the CDA Building, First Floor Conference Room, Oloai, Saipan, at 2:00 p.m., on Friday, September 27, 2013, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. **Minimum Bid. No minimum opening bid.**
2. **Reserve.** The auction shall be held with reserve.
3. **Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auctions with reserve, auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction:
a) To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
b) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
c) To reject, on behalf of the seller, any and all bids.
4. **Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Manuel A. Sablan, Executive Director, Commonwealth Development Authority, P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7145, Fax: 235-7147; or to F. Matthew Smith, P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.
5. **Deposit Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA.
6. **Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and CDA reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
7. **Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact CDA for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of Fidel S. Mendiola, Jr. and Fermina S. Mendiola in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty, and subject to the redemption laws of the CNMI. Failure to inspect the real property or its title will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 21st day of August 2013.

/s/ JAMES C. DELEON GUERRERO, Commissioner
Department of Public Safety

JENNIFER DOCKTER
Law Office of F. Matthew Smith, LLC
2nd Floor, MIC Building, Chalan Monsignor Guerrero
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Attorneys for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, Plaintiff,
vs. Civil Action No. 10-0162
HENRY ERNEST U. HOFSCHEIDER, Defendants. NOTICE OF AUCTION

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, CNMI Marshal, or any other person authorized by law hereinafter referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice that all of the right, title, and interest of the Defendant Henry Ernest U. Hofschneider in the following described, real properties situated in Tinian, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Lot No. 119 T 18, containing an area of 2,764 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Subdivision Plat of Lot No. 119 T 09, DLS Check No. 119 T 02, and filed with the Commonwealth Recorder on March 13, 1987, as File No. 87-0764, including all existing and future improvements on the said property

and
Lot No. 119 T 19, containing an area of 2,764 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Subdivision Plat of Lot No. 119 T 09, DLS Check No. 119 T 02, and filed with the Commonwealth Recorder on March 13, 1987, as File No. 87-0764, including all existing and future improvements on the said property;

The auction sale will be open to the general public and will be held at the CDA Building, First Floor Conference Room, Oloai, Saipan, at 2:00 p.m., on Friday, September 27, 2013, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. **Minimum Bid. No minimum opening bid.**
2. **Reserve.** The auction shall be held with reserve.
3. **Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auctions with reserve, auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction:
a) To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;
b) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
c) To reject, on behalf of the seller, any and all bids.
4. **Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Manuel A. Sablan, Executive Director, Commonwealth Development Authority, P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7145, Fax: 235-7147; or to F. Matthew Smith, P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.
5. **Deposit Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA.
6. **Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and CDA reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
7. **Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact CDA for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of Henry Ernest U. Hofschneider in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty, and subject to the redemption laws of the CNMI. Failure to inspect the real property or its title will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 21st day of August 2013.

/s/ JAMES C. DELEON GUERRERO, Commissioner
Department of Public Safety

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Attorneys for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, Plaintiff,
vs. Civil Action No. 11-0178
JOAQUIN H. BORJA and SOOK M. BORJA, Defendants. NOTICE OF AUCTION

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, CNMI Marshal, or any other person authorized by law hereinafter referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice that all of the right, title, and interest of the Defendants Joaquin H. Borja and Sook M. Borja in the following described, real properties situated in Tinian, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Lot 118 T 05, containing an area of 1,189 square meters, more or less, as shown on Plat No. 118 T 01 and recorded under File No. 11984;

and
Lot 006 T 24, containing an area of 966 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat Number 006 T 01 dated April 29, 1983, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference;

The auction sale will be open to the general public and will be held at the CDA Building, First Floor Conference Room, Oloai, Saipan, at 2:00 p.m., on Friday, September 27, 2013, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. **Minimum Bid. No minimum opening bid.**
2. **Reserve.** The auction shall be held with reserve.
3. **Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auctions with reserve, auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction:
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b) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
c) To reject, on behalf of the seller, any and all bids.
4. **Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Manuel A. Sablan, Executive Director, Commonwealth Development Authority, P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7145, Fax: 235-7147; or to F. Matthew Smith, P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.
5. **Deposit Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA.
6. **Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and CDA reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
7. **Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact CDA for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of Joaquin H. Borja and Sook M. Borja in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty, and subject to the redemption laws of the CNMI. Failure to inspect the real property or its title will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 21st day of August 2013.

/s/ JAMES C. DELEON GUERRERO, Commissioner
Department of Public Safety

Shanghai TV tapes show on Saipan, Tinian

Shanghai TV's "Hi Life" program taped a 50-minute program on Saipan and Tinian last week that will air to an estimated 150 million viewers in China. The show is anticipated to bring an estimated \$1.3 million in advertising exposure for the Northern Mariana Islands.

"Hi Life" is a lifestyle program targeting young and middle-aged travel lovers. While on Saipan, the show's three hosts highlighted a tour of Saipan, a dinner cruise with Saipan Sunset Cruise, water sports at Managaha, dinner at 360 Revolving Restaurant, golf at Laolao Bay Golf Resort, and an ATV tour with Marianas Trekking. An island tour of Tinian also featured numerous historical and geographic features.

"Media FAM(iliarization) tours such as these are an excellent investment of our advertising dollars and continue to bring large amounts of media exposure to Saipan, Tinian, and Rota," said Marianas Visitors Authority marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "We thank our MVA members for their continued support of these groups with numerous in-kind donations."

The film crew lodged at Hyatt Regency Saipan and Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino during their visit. The media FAM(iliarization) tour was jointly sponsored by the MVA and Tinian Dynasty. (MVA)



Shanghai TV's "Hi Life" program taped on Saipan and Tinian in September 2013 for a program that will air to 150 million potential viewers in China.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DEQ raises red flag on 6 sites

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged six locations on Saipan and advises the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said Jeffry's Beach, Hidden Beach, Marine Beach, South Laulau Beach, Ladder Beach, Unai Dangkolo

Beach contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards.

These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also con-

tain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's east and south recreational beaches this week.

The agency analyzes samples of 12 Saipan east and south recreational beaches this week.

Marine Water Quality Reports are also provided at www.deq.gov.mp/section.aspx?secID=4.

Interested individuals and organizations can also receive email notifications of the weekly marine water quality reports.

To do so, please send an email to waterqualityreport@deq.gov.mp. DEQ welcomes all inquiries as to the quality of the beach water. The public is encouraged to contact DEQ at 664-8500 with any questions. (DEQ)



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MTS PTA meeting today

Parents and guardians are encouraged to attend the Marianas High School PTA meeting today, Sept. 19, 6pm at the Dolphin Theater. The agenda includes an update on the new school year from MHS principal Cherlyn Cabrera and election of PTA officers.

Please join the first MHS PTA meeting of school year 2013-2014 and have a voice in your student's education! (PR)

FSM consul general sets meeting Sept. 21

To all Federated States of Micronesia citizens currently residing in Saipan and the CNMI, the FSM consul general for the CNMI will be on Saipan on Saturday, Sept. 21, 2013, and wishes to meet with you in the evening at 6pm at the Carolinian Utt. Everyone is urged to attend this important meeting, especially those that need to renew or apply for a new FSM passport. A notary public will be on site to notarize all applications. (PR)

Military pre-retirement brief event on Sept. 21

The 63rd Regional Support

Command and 9th Mission Support Command, Theater Support Group, U.S. Army Reserve, are scheduled to host a pre-retirement brief event for Army Reserve and Army National Guard Soldiers, Saturday, Sept. 21, at the Multi Purpose Center, Susupe.

Presenters from military service centers, Veteran Affairs and various military transition organizations will discuss topics about TriCare/Dental options, VA, and educational benefits, retirement pay, and much more as they pertain to Guard and Reserve Soldiers. Registration is from 7:30am to 8am. Briefing is from 8am to 4pm.

For registration or other information, contact SFC Joe M. Falaminiano, TSG Detachment Marianas at Office: (670) 322-6671 or email Joe.m.falaminiano.mil@mail.mil. (PR)

Survivors, caregivers support meeting on Sept. 23

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Associa-

tion monthly support meeting scheduled for Monday, Sept. 23, 5:30pm at Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. To RSVP or for more information, call the Commonwealth Cancer Association at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com or cca@cca-marianas.org. (PR)

SHEFA deadline for supporting documents on Sept. 30

The Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance said the deadline for submission of supporting documents in on Sept. 30, 2013.

SHEFA said documents submitted after the deadline will not be entertained. For more information, call 233-5995 or email us at contact@saipanshefa.net. (PR)

DEQ brigade to take part in 28th ICC

The Division of Environmental Quality's Cleanup Brigade will deviate from its regular first Saturday of the month beach cleanup brigade in order to join the Coastal Resource Manage-

ment's celebration of the 28th Annual International Coastal Cleanup, which is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 20, and Saturday, Sept. 21, on Saipan. Rota will be participating on Sept. 20 and Tinian will be hosting theirs on Sept. 18. If you would like to volunteer, contact a CRM ICC coordinator to sign up.

■ Saipan coordinator: Nicole Schafer, 664-8312

■ Rota coordinator: Bill Pendergrass, 532-0466

■ Tinian coordinator: Edwin Hofschneider, 433-0494

For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500/1. (DEQ)

Notice of NRCS public meeting

A USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service State Technical Committee Meeting will be held for the Pacific Islands Area on Thursday, Sept. 19, 2013, from 9am to 11am, at the following video teleconference site: USDA NRCS West Area Office, 770 East Sunset Blvd., Suite 260, Barrigada, GU 96913. Contact the Saipan Field Office at (670) 233-3415 for more information. (PR)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

September 19, 2005

Some 15K junk cars in NMI

There are about 15,000 abandoned vehicles in several sites in the CNMI, which could pose a health and environmental hazard, according to a Department of Public Works Division of Solid Waste Management official. Program manager Robert Jordan said the junk cars are not only eyesores but might also contain oil and other harmful chemicals and potential pollutants that could leak and endanger the environment. "Junked vehicles could leak out coolants, oil and lead batteries," he said, adding that the number of abandoned cars has been increasing throughout the years.

High fuel prices impact water firm

Saipan's leading ice and water company, Saipan Ice Inc., will shut down its commercial freezer services beginning Oct. 1 as part of the company's cost-cutting measures to cushion the impact of rising fuel prices. Saipan Ice general manager Ador Songcuan said the company has been cutting down on other aspects of business operations, including that of its ice plant. Songcuan said the company had to resort to drastic cost-cutting measures so it would not have to raise its prices.

September 19, 2006

600 exempted from austerity

About 600 public sector employees have been exempted from the austerity holiday law, which cuts government workers' pay by 10 percent. Acting Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez, in submitting the names of exempted employees to the Legislature, said the list is subject to change. "The Executive Branch will monitor the duties, responsibilities and performances of the exempted employees. Should any of the positions be deemed non-critical at a later time, the respective employees will become non-exempt. Likewise, should other positions become critical, a supplemental list shall be forthcoming," Villagomez said. The list included 369 from the Department of Public Health, 80 from the Department of Corrections, 34 from the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, 17 from the Department of Public Works, and 15 from the Division of Environmental Quality.

NMC gets 5 off-island applicants for presidency

The search for the Northern Marianas College's next president has caught the attention of off-island applicants. The Board of Regents reported last Friday that five mainland applicants have submitted their resumes. In a meeting Friday afternoon at NMC, the Presidential Search Committee told board members that they have received five application letters from prospective candidates from the mainland and one from the CNMI. Regent Elaine Hocog-Orilla said that the group has been very active in disseminating the requirements to the community. She said the committee has advertised with two newspapers in the CNMI and tapped the power of the Internet in searching for the next president.

September 19, 2007

Wage increase looms for resident workers

Resident workers will get the equivalent of in-kind benefits given to foreign workers under new regulations proposed by the Department of Labor. The proposed regulations implement the Resident Workers Fair Compensation Act. They apply to U.S. citizens and permanent residents. Under the proposed regulations, employers that offer benefits such as housing, food, and transportation to alien workers must offer either the same in-kind benefits or a net cash equivalent to local workers. Except for medical benefits, the option to accept the benefits in kind or in cash is up to the employee. For medical benefits, the employer will choose.

Labor seeks to implement OPA jobs study advice

The Department of Labor published proposed regulations yesterday implementing the Public Auditor's jobs study report. The proposed regulations have a 30-day public comment period and may go into effect as early as October 22, 2007. The Public Auditor's jobs study report, issued on May 31, 2007, recommended increased limitations on the use of foreign workers in certain job categories so as to promote the employment of U.S. citizens in those jobs. Based on a lengthy investigation, the Public Auditor found that qualified local residents are available for these jobs or can be trained within a relatively short period of time.

Island Snapshots



PIC PALOOZA
Above, Pacific Islands Club Saipan general manager Hiro Sugie, third from left, poses with his staff during the "PIC Palooza—The Game Show" event held last Sept. 7 at Charley's Cabaret.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Above center, guests with their "Make Love Not War" placards at the PIC Palooza Party.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Above right, PIC Saipan SEA operations manager Dennis Tababa, center, with Keoni Ichihara, left, and Cindy Park.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Right, game show host Glenn Policare with three contestants vying for prizes.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Far right, guests enjoying the PIC Palooza Party.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



'BEAUTIFY MY MARIANAS'
Marianas Pacific Paddlers collected trash along the beach and roadways in Marpi and San Roque on Sept. 1, 2013 as part of the "Beautify My Marianas" program administered by the Marianas Visitors Authority and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Junior and adult members of Marianas Pacific Paddlers braved the rain to collect nearly 160 lbs. of trash in San Roque and Marpi

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CHRISTENING



Far left, Rickson Manglona was welcomed to the Christian world last Sept. 14 at JC Café on Tinian. Photo shows Rickson with parents Joe Raymon Manglona, left, and Quennie Cabrera.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Left, Jade Almonte was welcomed to the Christian world last Sept. 15 at JC Café on Tinian. Photo shows Jade with parents Bitoy, left, and Delia Almonte.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Trying diplomacy in Syria

When President Obama asked Congress to authorize a military attack against Syria, he said the goal was to “hold the Assad regime accountable for their use of chemical weapons, deter this kind of behavior and degrade their capacity to carry it out.”

Can the same objectives be accomplished through diplomacy? In his address to the nation Tuesday, Obama announced that he would pursue that possibility, even as he reserved the option of military action. That was the right call, but the diplomatic track must not be allowed to become a long and winding road to nowhere.

What’s under discussion is a Russian proposal for “international control” of Syria’s chemical weapons and their “subsequent destruction.” It was broached by Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov after Secretary of State John F. Kerry suggested that Assad might avert U.S. military action by turning over “every single bit of his chemical weapons to the international community in the next week.” Kerry added: “But he isn’t about to do it, and it can’t be done, obviously.” Then Syrian officials endorsed the idea and even suggested Syria would sign the Chemical Weapons Convention.

An agreement that would truly put Syria’s chemical weapons “beyond use” would be a preferable alternative to military action. It would reaffirm the international condemnation of chemical warfare and might prove just as successful as airstrikes in preventing future atrocities by the Assad government. It might even have a deterrent effect on other nations considering the use of nonconventional weapons.

But will it work? Kerry has said that the United States seeks a “full resolution” of the U.N. Security Council, an apparent reference to a so-called Chapter 7 resolution that would authorize member states to use military force to implement it. So far Russia, which has veto power on the council, has resisted that approach. Even if the council were to approve a muscular resolution, Assad’s past mendacity in dealings with U.N. representatives raises concerns that he would obstruct weapons inspectors—who would be performing their duties in the midst of a civil war.

Their jobs would not be easy. Monitors would need some measure of protection from the wars violence, and the process of identifying and destroying the weapons would have to be verifiable. There would also have to be serious consequences for noncompliance so that the process wouldn’t become a farce or a cat-and-mouse game reminiscent of the long effort to inspect Saddam Hussein’s supposed weapons of mass destruction.

Notwithstanding these concerns, Obama’s decision to explore a diplomatic solution is a prudent one. We continue to believe that the use of chemical weapons against civilians requires a response from this country, ideally in concert with other nations. But, like the president, we hope that message can be effectively delivered other than by military might.

(c) 2013 Los Angeles Times



Putin’s own brand of exceptionalism

Russian President Vladimir Putin’s New York Times op-ed explaining the Russian position on Syria has been one of the odder, and most talked-about, aspects of the past week’s events surrounding that crisis. Putin’s parting shot at President Barack Obama over the notion of American exceptionalism is particularly rich in unintentional ironies—both because of Obama’s complicated relationship with American exceptionalism and because of Putin’s history with the Russian variety.

In the past, Obama has been lambasted by conservatives for abandoning American exceptionalism. In 2009, on his first presidential trip abroad, Obama drew ire from the right when he seemed to downplay America’s uniqueness by saying, “I believe in American exceptionalism, just as I suspect that the Brits believe in British exceptionalism and the Greeks believe in Greek exceptionalism.” Yet Obama’s defenders noted that he immediately went on to assert that we have core values that, “though imperfect, are exceptional,” as well as a unique leadership role in the world.

In his address on Syria last Tuesday, Obama seemed to equate America’s exceptional status with a duty to protect the innocent abroad when we can do so “with modest effort and risk.” One may see this as an unusually government-oriented concept of American exceptionalism, traditionally rooted in the principle that people take precedence over the state: Individuals have inalienable rights, while the government derives its powers from their consent. Yet, however debatable, it is also a concept unquestionably rooted in human rights.

At the end of his op-ed, Putin chides, “It is extremely dangerous to encourage people to see themselves as exceptional, whatever the motivation. There are big countries and small countries, rich and poor, those with long democratic traditions and those still finding their way to democracy. ... We must not forget that God created us equal.”

There’s a series of old Russian jokes offering examples of naglost — a term similar to chutzpah — and super naglost. Putin’s lecture belongs with the latter. No culture in the world today is as saturated with the idea of its country’s unique greatness as Russia’s. Moreover, exploiting this messianic nationalism has been

By CATHY YOUNG
Newsday

Cathy Young is a regular contributor to Reason magazine and the website RealClearPolitics. This was written for Newsday.



the key to Putin’s entire political career.

After the collapse of Communism in 1991, Russia saw a revival of the 19th-century conflict between “Westernizers” and proponents of a special path for Russia. Putin’s neo-authoritarianism, despite some Western-style trappings, was a victory for nationalism. It is no accident that the Putin-era Russian anthem hails Russia as “one in the world, one of a kind—our land kept safe by God.” Russia’s uniqueness in contrast to the corrupt and individualist West is routinely preached by the pro-government media and the Russian Orthodox Church, Putin’s staunchest ally.

In January 2012, just before his return to the presidency, Putin penned an article for a leading Russian newspaper, Nezavisimaya Gazeta, asserting that “the great mission of Russians is to unite and fortify civilization.” He was ostensibly referring to the role of ethnic Russians within a multiethnic country; yet, combined with his well-known nostalgia for the Soviet empire, the statement suggests a far grander vision of Russian primacy.

In describing this mission, Putin cited 19th-century novelist Fyodor Dostoyevsky’s assertion that the Russian people have “universal empathy”—forgetting to mention that Dostoyevsky used this claim as a basis for virulent, imperialistic nationalism. Proclaiming the superiority of Russians as a “God-bearing people, he wrote, “A truly great nation can never accept a secondary place in the history of humanity, or even one of the first; it must have first place.”

American exceptionalism, however flawed, is based on the idea of liberty. Russian exceptionalism is based on the superiority of paternalistic government and communal bonds over individual rights. And that is, indeed, a dangerous ideology to encourage.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Man-abag gi lai man-ritirau

Namatman na esta pa'gu ni unu gi entalu' administrasion yan lehislatura kumeke aligau haf' i lai konstitusion ilegña pot lai pagamienton man-ritirau.

Yangin desde tutuhon matatiye lai konstitusion pot este na asunto ti umasusede i likau feria halom gi kotte. Tantu de inapalo'pu' diskuidu yan mañan tulusan gi lai, estague' na mattu dispues i guafen butkan ni gaige esta gi halom guma'.

Didog na diskuidon manehante gi katkuet manera. Ni unu siña pumula' i magodden te'chuñg na talen batku. Kase kareran para tamana' fan matcha guatu gi sasalaguan diskuidun niha.

Lastima sa' megai hagas pumega na este O'Perlas iya Pasifiku 'nai gaige parausun niha. Lau desde siete años malofan, mama' sasalaguan iya Marianas. Gigon lokue' ma-atkila tanohu bai mueba-yu' para un' estadu 'nai mas guaha appottunidat luma'la' disiente gi hilu prosperu yan famaguonhu siha.

Lastima! Man-abag sin presisu i man-sabiun I Deni'.

Kuestion ginen i señsugñ

Kuantu gi halom 29 na membron lehislatura kumomprende haf' di-chu asuntun linahyan? Yangin makomprende, pues haf' na mampos chafleg linala' familia siha gi señsugñ?

Estague' na kuestion sumen mauleg in' faisen maisa hamyu gi kada oran miriendan familia. Hu tuñgu' ha' na diariu manalag hi-hilu' hamyu man-e'ega' hafa otru kahulu presiña 'nai gi mismu tiempu kara' pottanmonedan familia 'sino i sueddu parerehu ha' pot 'nos kuantos años na tiempu.

Lastima i appottunidat sa' sessu mafa' matuñgu' i ti matuñgu ya siha mismu ti matuñgu' na ti matuñgu'. A' Saina pot dios mihu!

Naufragun Kuttura

Sustansian este na palabra i "naufragu" era pot pasaherun mafondu na batku. Siña suette i prohimo ya numañgu guatu gi fina' kantit 'nai umenañga ausiliu.

Siña lokue' ta usa i palabra kumu "naufragu" kuttura 'nai hagas mapua galaideña i prohimo ya ume'esuette otru galaide' para

uma'udai.

Lamegai gi bisinu pumadedese este na estau sa' hagas man-tinane' inadaplan otru kuttura 'nai adumididi' man-binegbog ginen sustansian hale' niha.

Hana' ma'aseyu' i mattirun fina'pos niha sa' ayu ma-akude i mas hihot pot para u adelanta ha'anen niha. Gi karera mona, man-chi-napag ginen haf' sustansian kutturun natibu.

Umahnana ti man-finu' Chamoru ayu na timatuñgu' hila' niha. Pa'gu man-e'eyag pot sumen presisu na umatuñgu haf' tinatten niha.

I kuttura kulan un' guihan intaktu ni gai ilu, tatautau yan dadalag. Ti u felis kareraña yangin ti kabales intaktu tatautauña.

Hinimide gi pineble

Mampos ha poñga ham i sinantusan na nanan mame sensian hinimide maseha man-mamatmos ham gi halom tasin miserapble na pineble. Tai malefaghu un' finoña, "Lahihu, poblelyu' yan si tatan miyu lau ti inna' fanekun hamyu".

Magahet na guaha na esta tutuhu' lago'hu gi un' tiempu 'nai kada sentada sinetnen sunen bisaya yan asiga gi lamasa. Taiguenau man-pineblen mame un' tiempu. Sumen magofyu' lokue' ni fitme na kre-neansan mañainan mame sa' ni unu gi mañelu mamunu', mañake 'sino mamunu'.

Mampos dañkulu na difirensia kinahulu' antes yan pa'gu. Mas metgot i batidan tinilaika ya taya' siña mumaneha galaide' familia gi este siha na chubasku fuera ke dos saina. Muñga man-hinalañg. Pasensiaye ya in' atetuye umesgaihon famaguon miyu.

■ ■ ■

Lachok flores gi hatdin

I famaguon manlachog gi hatdin korason mañainan niha. Ti tod u fan profesot lau seguruyu' na todus u fan antau hinanau niha ginen pinasensian dos patman kanai mañainan niha.

Hafa ta pega giya siha siempre u anog gi 'nai sige manlachog gi

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of Department of Public Lands.



hatdin familia. Siha espehosta dispues de pettan sanme' na 'sino 'nai manhanau.

'Nai esta i dos saina ha' sosobra gi santatte 'nai guaha 'nai mangi-nacha' man-mahalañg nu siha. Ta huchum mahalañgta gi hilu' bien felis na bendision gi kareran kada unu.

Hana' hahassuyu' este na fina'pos gi finu' kanta-ta "I Mañain-amu". Ilelegña gi segundu patte: "Atan hulu' i pilan gi lañget, man-i'ina sumen suabe, hai'ina i hemhum na chalan, para talie' hinanau-ta, kulan un' saina gi famaguon, ha pupulan maseha manu, ayu na hagu lokue' ni patgon, para i sainamu muñga ingratu". Manlachog gi hatdin inestablesen familia.

■ ■ ■

Imbarasus

Fatigau i amiguu Magoo manhassu kulan mohon lokue' mapapase publikamente gi satbasion asuntun linahyan siha. Lau ni unabes 'nai sumeha yangin hu faisen kuestion tat kumu, "Para i miserapble na modun lina'la' pa'gu, para un' bota ha' ta'lu i mang-gaige na man-ma'gas?" Chumaleg ya ilegña, "Sina ha' mudoruyu", lau ti kaduduku i che'lumu!" Buena!

■ ■ ■

Hu faisen lokue' hafa "ugas". Ensegidas ha lablayu', "Guiya 'nau i parientes pugas". "Ugas" ayu 'nai un' hopyat inetsis mendioka gi halom hanom para un' lagnos asientofa. De dios mihu!

Time to rethink strategy on Syria

By **TRUDY RUBIN**
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

When someone throws a drowning man a life preserver, he can't afford to question his rescuer's intentions.

Thus, this week President Obama eagerly grabbed a lifeline thrown by the Russians: a proposal that international monitors take control of and destroy Syria's chemical arsenal. Moscow's offer gave the president an excuse to postpone a congressional vote on authorizing a military strike against Syria—a strike meant to punish Bashar al-Assad for crossing a chemical-weapons "red line" by gassing civilians. The Kremlin saved Obama from public humiliation since he was almost certain to lose the vote.

Clearly Vladimir Putin, whose relationship with Obama is famously frosty, has no interest in doing him favors. Moscow's gesture was meant to help its ally Assad by preventing a U.S. strike that could have benefited the Syrian opposition.

Yet this breather offers Obama one more chance to reshape an incoherent Syria policy—on Assad's chemical weapons, and beyond. On chemical arms, Obama must decide what he wants to make out of this new diplomatic opportunity.

Most experts doubt Assad will willingly turn over the bulk of these weapons, which will be difficult to find because he has now dispersed them, and even more difficult to destroy. Carrying out such a project in wartime could take months or years.

"We're just going to have to see how serious the Russians are about telling the Syrians: 'You have to do this,'" says Ryan Crocker, the veteran diplomat and former U.S. ambassador to Syria. "It will take an 'or else.'" Even with pressure, collecting the huge stores of Syrian poison gas may be an impossible task.

Crocker, now dean of the Bush School of Government at Texas A&M, adds, "Most likely Putin and Assad are just playing for time, figuring the more time goes by, the less likely a strike." Some Syria experts think Assad will try to play out the inspection game until 2014, when he wants to hold new presidential elections. Murhaf Jouejati, a Syria expert at National Defense University, says: "He's

going to cheat, lie, and 'win' the election, thumbing his nose at the world. Russia will help him."

In other words, the new Syria diplomacy might well prove a sham.

To prevent this, the administration will have to insist on deadlines for any project to collect chemical arms. Obama's team will need to use skilled behind-the-scenes diplomacy—not bluster and public denunciations—to rally broader support for a tough U.N. resolution that holds Assad accountable for crimes against his people. This should be the moment to isolate Assad—and the White House should make public the intercepts that prove his commanders ordered the strike.

Ironically, Iran could play a key role here. Iranian officials have

Ironically, Iran could play a key role here. Iranian officials have a deep aversion to the use of poison gas, which Saddam Hussein used to kill tens of thousands of their countrymen during the Iran-Iraq war. Tweets and interviews from top Iranian officials have denounced the use of gas in Syria, without pointing a finger at the rebels (as Putin did). Some officials have openly held Assad responsible for the gas attacks.

a deep aversion to the use of poison gas, which Saddam Hussein used to kill tens of thousands of their countrymen during the Iran-Iraq war. Tweets and interviews from top Iranian officials have denounced the use of gas in Syria, without pointing a finger at the rebels (as Putin did). Some officials have openly held Assad responsible for the gas attacks.

While it still backs the Assad regime, Iran clearly wants to avoid another massacre by sarin. Behind-the-scenes contacts between Washington and Tehran, even indirect, might pave the way for a plausible project to control the bulk of his chemical weapons. That, in turn, could reduce the risk of such weapons falling into the hands of jihadi or other radical groups—something in which Moscow also shares an interest. (Rather than risk retaliation from Israel, Iran might even want to keep Syria from passing them on to Hezbollah.)

In other words, diplomacy over Assad's chemical weapons might produce some useful results.

But, if the near-debacle over red lines proved anything, it's that the White House needs a Syria strategy that goes beyond such immediate crises. Obama also needs to reconsider when and whether he would use force.

Russia wouldn't have thrown out the idea of curbing Assad's weapons without the threat of a potential U.S. strike—even though Secretary of State John Kerry insisted it would be "unbelievably small."

Any further Syrian diplomacy will languish without such pressure behind it.

If Obama doesn't want to use military strikes, he must revisit the issue of arming more moderate rebels. Otherwise Syria is headed for a division between a rump Assad state and so-called emirates run by well-armed radical Islamists who have squelched moderates with fewer weapons. Refugee flows will continue to flood Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, and Iraq.

A narrow U.S. focus on chemical arms gives Assad carte blanche to slaughter his people by all other means possible. It virtually guarantees that Syria will implode in a way that threatens its neighbors.






Putin has (unwittingly) given Obama the chance to reconfigure a strategy that deals with the wider Syria problem. Time is short.

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Northwest winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. North winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Partly sunny with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.
▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲ 87 ▼ 78
Palau	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 76
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 89 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 74
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 74
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 79

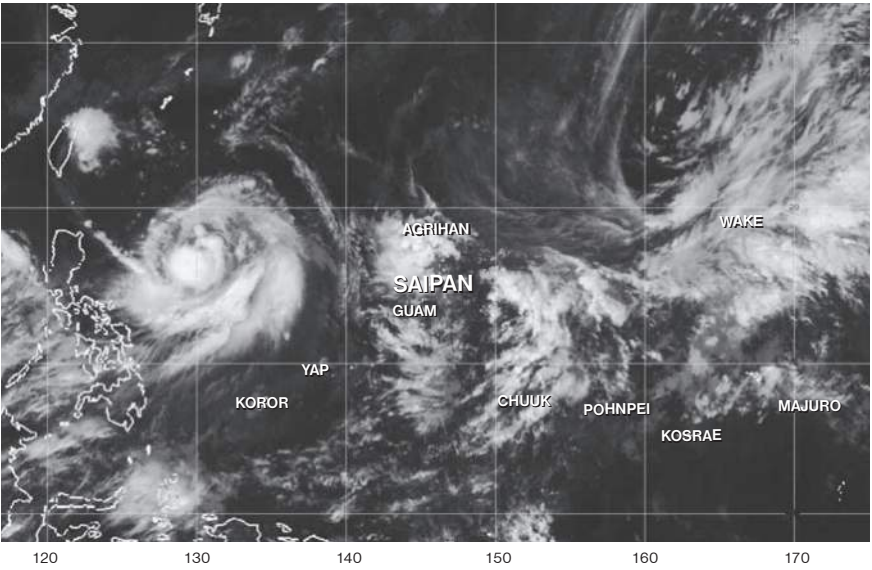
Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲ 63 ▼ 59
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲ 83 ▼ 60
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 91 ▼ 81
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 89 ▼ 74
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 61 ▼ 50
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 83 ▼ 61
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 83 ▼ 79
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 65 ▼ 47
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 85 ▼ 76
New York	Sunny	▲ 76 ▼ 58
Osaka	Sunny	▲ 86 ▼ 71
Paris	Cloudy	▲ 65 ▼ 48
Pusan	Sunny	▲ 83 ▼ 70
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲ 78 ▼ 62
Salem	Sunny	▲ 83 ▼ 53
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 75 ▼ 58
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 82 ▼ 68
Tokyo	Sunny	▲ 85 ▼ 70
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲ 80 ▼ 63

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
2:15 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
8:00 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
2:32 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
8:35 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm Usagi (17W) is centered well northwest of Yap at 17N130E and moving westward at 3 mph with maximum sustained winds of 60 mph. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are west of a line from 21N135E to 15N137E to 10N130E. For more information on Usagi see bulletins issued by Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN32 PGTW. A tropical disturbance is centered east of Guam at 14N148E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from across the Mariana Islands to south of Guam are within 200 miles of a line from 19N143E to 6N146E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms east of the Marianas across Chuuk state and just north of Pohnpei are between two lines. The north line is from 16N149E to 16N158E and the south line is from 4N149E to 9N159E. An upper-level low centered north of Wake Island at 25N164E along with convergent low-level winds are triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms in several large areas to the north of a line 8N161E to 16N177E. Trade-wind convergence is causing scattered showers across the Marshall Islands near Kwajalein and Majuro within 150 miles of a line from 9N167E to 6N180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:06 AM	6:16 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:15 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:14 PM
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:13 PM
Monday	6:06 AM	6:13 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:58 PM	5:31 AM
Friday	6:43 PM	6:27 AM
Saturday	7:27 PM	7:22 AM
Sunday	8:12 PM	8:16 AM
Monday	8:58 PM	9:09 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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 - Fax: (670) 235-3740
 - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2013

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7	UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5	UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily	UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily	UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily	UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily				
				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
				UA5062	2:40am	3:15am	1, 3, 5
				UA5038	10:10am	10:45am	6
				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
				UA5062	3:45am	4:20am	1, 3, 5
				UA5038	11:15am	11:50am	6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	8:40am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL285	6:35am	9:10am	1, 6	DL286	8:00pm	12:35am+1	5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily	DL288	8:55pm	1:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1	OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily	OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5	MU763	7:55pm	3:10am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV)				KHABAROVSK (KHV)-SAIPAN			
SYL9950	6:40pm	1:30am+1	7	SYL9949	12:45pm	5:20pm	7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	PR110/UA5072	7:35am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	DL172/288	7:55am	1:30am+1	Daily via NRT
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM	UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5062/191	4:50am	9:55am	3 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
DL287/173	6:05am	10:05pm	Daily via NRT	OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5068/PR111	8:35am	4:45pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5074/PR111	11:20am	4:45pm	1, 5, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM	OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM				
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN				
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/745	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN	UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 5 via GUM
				UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:05am+1	3, 6 GUM
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.							
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)							

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 100	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

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- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Starbucks says guns unwelcome, though not banned

NEW YORK (AP)—Starbucks says guns are no longer welcome in its cafes, though it is stopping short of an outright ban on firearms.

The fine line that the retailer is walking to address the concerns of both gun rights and gun control advocates reflects how heated the issue has become, particularly in light of recent mass shootings.

Most states allow people to openly carry licensed guns in some way and many companies do not have laws banning firearms in their stores. But Starbucks has become a target for gun control advocates, in part because of its liberal-leaning

corporate image. In turn, gun rights advocates have been galvanized by the company's decision to defer to local laws.

In an interview, CEO Howard Schultz said the decision to ask customers to stop bringing guns into stores came as a result of the growing frequency of "Starbucks Appreciation Days," in which gun rights advocates turned up at Starbucks cafes with firearms.

Schultz said the events mischaracterized the company's stance on the issue and the demonstrations "have made our customers uncomfortable."

Schultz hopes people will honor the request not to bring in guns

but says the company will nevertheless serve those who do.

"We will not ask you to leave," he said.

The Seattle-based company plans to buy ad space in major national newspapers including The New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post and USA Today on Thursday to run an open letter from Schultz explaining the decision. The letter points to recent activities by both gun rights and gun control advocates at its stores, saying that it has been "thrust unwillingly" into the middle of the national debate over firearms.

As for the "Starbucks Appreciation Days" being staged by gun rights advocates, it stresses: "To be clear: we do not want these events in our stores."

But the letter notes that Starbucks is standing by its position that the matter should ultimately be left to lawmakers. Schultz also said he doesn't want to put workers in the position of having to confront armed customers by banning guns.

The AP was provided a picture of a memo to Starbucks employees on Tuesday. Partners are instructed not to confront customers or ask them to leave

solely for carrying a weapon.

Several companies do not allow firearms in their stores, however, apparently with little trouble. Representatives for Peet's Coffee & Tea and Whole Foods, for example, said there haven't been any problems with enforcing their gun bans.

Shannon Watts, founder of the gun reform group Moms Demand Action, noted that Starbucks has taken strong stances on other issues. Earlier this year, for example, the company banned smoking within 25 feet of its stores, wherever its leases allowed.

The idea was to extend its no-smoking policy to the outdoor seating areas.

"There's a big difference in the connotation of someone holding a gun and someone holding a cigarette," Schultz said.

Moms Demand Action, which was formed the day after the Newtown, Conn., school shooting, has been organizing "Skip Starbucks Saturdays" to urge the coffee company to ban guns at its stores. Participants take photos of themselves at competitors such as Peet's that do not allow guns and post them online.

Poverty stuck at 15 percent -record 46.5 million

WASHINGTON (AP)—The nation's poverty rate remained stuck at 15 percent last year despite America's slowly reviving economy, a discouraging lack of improvement for the record 46.5 million poor and an unwelcome benchmark for President Barack Obama's recovery plans.

More than 1 in 7 Americans were living in poverty, not statistically different from the 46.2 million of 2011 and the sixth straight year the rate had failed to improve, the Census Bureau reported Tuesday. Median income for the nation's households was \$51,017, also unchanged from the previous year after two consecutive annual declines, while the share of people without health insurance did improve but only a bit, from 15.7 percent to 15.4 percent.

"We're in the doldrums, with high poverty and inequality as the new normal for the foreseeable future," said Timothy Smeeding, an economics pro-

fessor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison who specializes in income inequality. "The fact we've seen no real recovery in employment and wages means we've just flatlined."

Mississippi had the highest share of its residents in poverty, at 22 percent, according to rough calculations by the Census Bureau. It was followed by Louisiana, New Mexico and Arkansas. On the other end of the scale, New Hampshire had the lowest share, at 8.1 percent.

The last significant decline in the national poverty rate came in 2006, during the Bush administration and before the housing bubble burst and the recession hit. In 2011, the rate dipped to 15 percent from 15.1 percent, but census officials said that change was statistically insignificant.

For the past year, the official poverty line was an annual income of \$23,492 for a family of four.

European auto sales hit new low

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)—Car sales in Europe are still sagging despite the return of modest economic growth.

For the first eight months of the year, passenger car sales in the European Union were off 5.2 percent to 7.84 million compared with the same period last year, the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association said Tuesday. That's the lowest January-August figure since the group started keeping track in 1990.

New car registrations in August fell 5 percent from a year ago to 653,872, the association said.

The economy in the 28-country EU grew 0.4 percent in the second quarter, ending a recession. But the unemployment rate remains high at 11.0 percent, making many consumers unable

or afraid to buy a new car.

Governments hit by the eurozone debt crisis have cut back on spending and raised taxes to try to manage oversized debt levels, slowing their economies. The hardest hit countries, such as Greece and Spain, face even higher jobless rates that have hurt sales of moderately priced vehicles especially hard. Luxury carmakers are doing better.

The August downturn was distributed across Europe's biggest markets. Germany saw a 5.5 percent drop, despite a stronger economy than in other members of the 17-county eurozone. Registrations fell 10.5 percent in France, 18.3 percent in Spain, and 6.6 percent in Italy.

Britain's was the only major market to expand, rising 10.5 percent.

Review: iPhone fingerprint sensor worth extra cost



The iPhone 5S, left, and iPhone 5c are displayed Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2013, in New York.

CUPERTINO, Calif. (AP)—Passcodes are such a pain that I've relaxed the security settings on my Android phone. I'm willing to forgo the extra safety, just so I'm asked to punch in the code less often. When I got my hands on Apple's new iPhone 5S, one of the first things I tried was a feature that allows you to bypass the passcode using a fingerprint.

I had a lot of fun unlocking the phone over and over again. Who knew biometric authentication could be such a blast?

The fingerprint sensor alone is worth the extra \$100 you'll pay for the 5S over an iPhone 5C. Both phones will come out Friday. In the week I've had with both, I've also been impressed with the better camera and slow-motion video in the 5S.

The 5C, meanwhile, is largely

last year's iPhone 5 with a plastic casing instead of aluminum and glass. This isn't cheap plastic, but a type offering the slippery feel of a shiny ceramic tile. It comes in five colors.

Both phones come with iOS 7, the most radical change to Apple's operating system software for mobile devices since its 2007 debut. Many of the changes are cosmetic, but there are functional improvements such as easier access to frequently used settings and apps.

I will review iOS 7 separately. Many existing iPhone users won't need more than the free update, which is available starting Wednesday. Neither the 5C nor the 5S offers improvements on the screen size, which remains at 4 inches diagonally. But new features and new col-

ors may draw you to one of these new iPhones.

- IPHONE 5S (available in silver, gold or gray; starts at \$199 with two-year service contract, or \$649 without a contract):

When you set up the 5S, you're asked to tap the home button with a finger several times so the phone can create a mathematical representation of your print. To unlock the phone, you simply tap the home button, and the phone will compare the two taps. You can tap from any angle, even sideways or upside down. This fingerprint ID also works as a way to authenticate the purchase of apps and content within apps.

For security reasons, there are still times you'll need your four-digit passcode, including after 48 hours of inactivity and

before adding a new fingerprint. If the phone fails to recognize your print, you can always use the passcode. I had trouble only when my fingers were wet or greasy. One evening, I ordered pizza with an oily pepperoni topping and ate it without a napkin. The fingerprint sensor worked after one slice, but not two. Indian naan bread also threw off the sensor.

Apple says it stores the print data on your phone, in a place that's inaccessible to other apps or to Apple's remote servers. The company also says it's not possible to convert a fingerprint from a police file into something the phone will recognize, as the sensor reads a sub-epidermal layer of the finger. And the finger needs to be live—cutting off a thumb won't work.

AP



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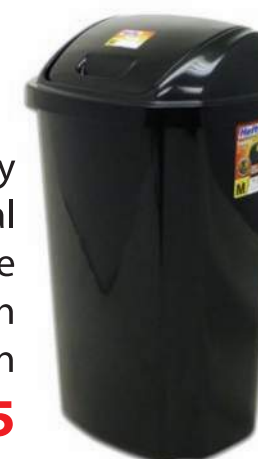


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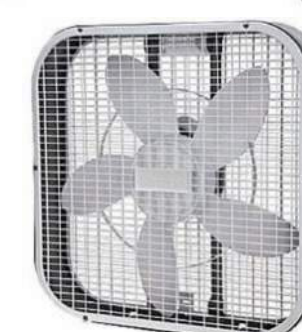


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Nation

Gunman's path to DC emerges, but questions remain

WASHINGTON (AP)—Through a wall at his Rhode Island hotel, Aaron Alexis could hear them—voices harassing him, wanting to harm him. He couldn't sleep. He believed people were following him, using a microwave machine to send vibrations to his body. He changed hotels once, then again. But he called police and told them he couldn't get away from the voices.

On Aug. 7, police alerted officials at the Newport Naval Station about the naval defense contractor's call. But officers didn't hear from him again.

By Aug. 25, Alexis had left the state. The 34-year-old arrived in the Washington area, continuing his work as an information technology employee for a defense-related computer company. Again, he spent nights in different hotels. He suffered

from serious mental problems, including paranoia and a sleep disorder, and was undergoing treatment from the Department of Veterans Affairs, according to the law enforcement officials.

But Alexis wasn't stripped of his security clearance, and he kept working.

On Saturday, he visited Sharpshooters Small Arms Range in Lorton, Va., about 18 miles southwest of the na-

tion's capital. He rented a rifle, bought bullets and took target practice at the 16-lane indoor range, then bought a shotgun and 24 shells, according to the store's attorney.

Two days later, as the work-week dawned, Alexis entered the sprawling Washington Navy Yard, a 41-acre labyrinth of buildings protected by armed guards and metal detectors where employees must show IDs to get past doors and gates. Authorities believe he drove a rental car there.

He was equipped with his pass for base access—and the shotgun. Within minutes, it would create mayhem.

He stepped inside the massive Building 197, home to some 3,000 employees. He opened fire around 8:15 a.m., raining shotgun blasts down from a fourth-floor overlook and third-floor hallway into a

glass-walled cafeteria where employees were eating breakfast. Trained tactical officers arrived, bursting through the building within seven minutes of the first 911 call, and Alexis shot at them, too.

Fire alarms blared, and officers had a hard time hearing one another. A voice came on the overhead speaker telling workers to seek shelter—and later, to head for the gates at the complex. A U.S. Park Police helicopter flew overhead, plucking a wounded woman from the roof with a rescue basket while a crew member armed with a rifle provided cover.

"We have a report on the fourth floor, a male with a shotgun, multiple shots fired, multiple people down. We're still waiting for the OK that the scene has been secured," an ambulance crew member says on emergency transmissions

posted on Broadcastify.com, a source of live public safety audio feeds.

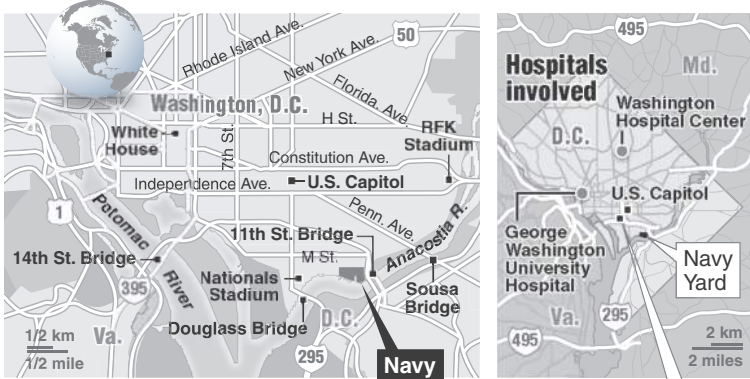
More dispatches followed: Shooter known to be in the main gate area. Officer down on the third floor. Female on the roof, shot in the shoulder.

Once inside, Alexis picked a handgun off an officer and, armed with two weapons, terrorized the building's occupants.

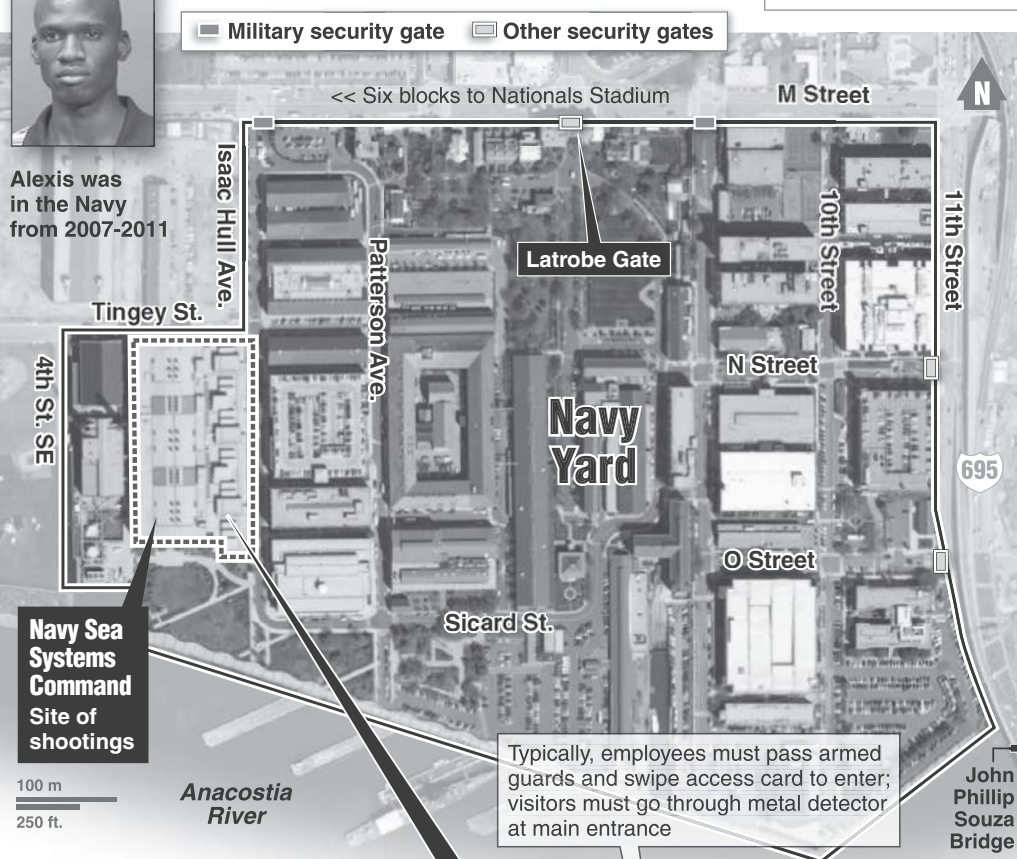
He fired relentlessly not only at police who engaged him but at the workers inside: a 61-year-old marine engineer and grandfather who immigrated to the U.S. years ago from India, a Navy veteran and avid pilot who had once been stationed at Pearl Harbor, a die-hard Washington Redskins fan known for generous bear hugs. A Washington police officer was shot multiple times in the legs but survived.

Mass shooting at Washington Navy Yard

Washington, D.C., police say a gunman, identified as 34-year-old Aaron Alexis, killed at least 12 people at the Washington Navy Yard Monday morning. The U.S. Navy said shots were fired around 8:20 a.m. (ET) at the Naval Sea Systems Command Headquarters building, where about 3,000 people work. Alexis, pictured below, was killed on the scene.



The scene



Sequence of events

Based on reports as of 11 p.m. ET, Sept. 16

8:20 a.m. Shots fired in Building 197

8:27 a.m. Team of D.C. officers enter building while shots are being fired; reports suggest gunman may have been firing down into atrium and cafeteria area from fourth floor position overhead; fire is exchanged, the gunman is killed

Soon after Navy Yard, nearby Department of Transportation building, several nearby schools are locked down

3 p.m. Some lockdowns are lifted

4:25 p.m. D.C. Police Chief Cathy Lanier exhorts people near Navy Yard to stay indoors

4:32 p.m. FBI identifies Alexis as the gunman; later reports indicate he was a computer contractor who used a valid ID to gain access to secure areas of the yard

11:15 p.m. Lanier says possibility of second shooter set aside

• Gunman may have bought shotgun in Lorton, Va.; unclear how he got two other guns found with him

Source: ESRI, Aerogrid, AEX, GeoEye, Getmapping, i-cubed, IGN, IGP, the GIS User Community, USDA, USGS, AP, CNN, NBC News, The Washington Post, U.S. Navy, MCT Photo Service
Graphic: Tim Goheen, Robert Dorrell © 2013 MCT

Federal gun laws didn't block Navy Yard shooter

WASHINGTON (AP)—The gunman in the mass shootings at the Washington Navy Yard, Aaron Alexis, had a history of violent outbursts, was at least twice accused of firing guns in anger and was in the early stages of treatment for serious mental problems, according to court records and U.S. law enforcement officials.

But Alexis apparently managed to exploit seams in the nation's patchwork of complicated gun laws designed to keep weapons out of the hands of dangerous people. He was able to buy a shotgun in Virginia with out-of-state identification, even though that would have prevented him from buying a handgun.

It is illegal for gun dealers to sell handguns to such out-of-state buyers, but the Firearms Owners' Protection Act, passed by Congress in 1986, opened up interstate sales for shotguns and rifles. Virginia gun laws require only that an out-of-state buyer show valid identification, pass a background check and otherwise abide by state laws in order to buy a shotgun in the state. Alexis was never prosecuted for the two misdemeanors involving guns.

Alexis bought the shotgun at Sharpshooters Small Arms Range in Lorton, Va. on Saturday, according to a statement from the attorney for the gun range.

Michael Slocum said in an email that Alexis rented a rifle, bought bullets and used the range before buying the shotgun and 24 shells. Slocum said Alexis passed a federal background check.

Law enforcement officials visited the range Monday, reviewing the store's video and other records.

"What the 1986 Firearms Owners' Protection Act did was it made it more convenient for gun buyers," said Kristen Rand, the legislative director at the Violence Policy Center. "That's the road we've been on for a while: The convenience of gun owner always seems to trump the right of victims not to be shot."

Federal gun laws bar the mentally ill from legally buying guns from licensed dealers. But the law requires that someone be involuntarily committed to a mental health facility or declared mentally ill by a judge, and that information must be reported to the FBI in order to appear on a background checks. In the wake of the 2007 shooting at Virginia Tech, state authorities changed state laws to make it tougher for the mentally ill to buy guns there.

But like other recently accused mass shooters, Alexis was never declared mentally ill by a judge or committed to a hospital. He was being treated by the Veterans Administration as recently as August, according to two law enforcement officials, but the Navy had not declared him mentally unfit.

The Virginia Tech shooter, Seung Hi Cho, was declared mentally ill by a judge, but nobody ever reported it to federal authorities to get him included in the database of banned purchasers.

After the December massacre at a Connecticut elementary school, U.S. lawmakers

pushed to overhaul gun laws. Among the proposals was a ban on military-style rifles, including the popular AR-15, and high-capacity ammunition magazines. There was also a plan to expand background checks to make sure anyone who wanted a gun got the approval of the federal government.

No legislation has moved forward in Congress, despite urgent pleas from the president, some lawmakers and victims' families.

President Barack Obama has made a few narrow administrative changes, but those are not likely to impact the kinds of guns most often found at crime scenes.

Obama said Tuesday he was concerned that an American ritual could emerge where every few months, the nation suffers a horrific mass shooting, then fails to take action to stop the next one from occurring. He said he would continue speaking out about the need for new gun laws, but that ultimately, it's up to lawmakers.

"I've taken steps that are within my control," Obama said in an interview with Telemundo. "The next phase now is for Congress to go ahead and move."

Monday's shooting prompted a new round of calls for action from lawmakers.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., and Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., the author of a bill on background checks, both said they would like to see a vote on the background checks bill, but the votes aren't there for passage at this time.

Asia

Philippine police officer freed, rebels surrender

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (AP)—A Philippine police chief who was reported abducted Tuesday by Muslim rebels has emerged free hours later after convincing his captors to surrender in a twist to a nine-day hostage standoff in the south of the country, officials said.

Interior Secretary Mar Roxas and police officials told a news conference that Senior Superintendent Jose Chiquito Malayo and three of his men were taken at gunpoint while trying to persuade some Moro National Liberation Front rebels to surrender in fighting near Zamboanga city.

"While trying to convince them, he was taken into custody or held hostage but he kept on convincing them until he succeeded," Roxas told reporters.

The rebels said they had come from a nearby island to join a peaceful protest by their group in Zamboanga but withdrew after firefights erupted between government troops and their comrades, Roxas said, adding police would in-

vestigate their claims.

"The important thing here is he (Malayo) was able to enact the surrender," military spokesman Lt. Col. Ramon Zagala said.

The surrender of about 20 rebels comes as government troops intensify an offensive to end the standoff that began Sept. 9 when the troops foiled a suspected plan by a larger group of rebels to take control of Zamboanga, a major port of nearly 1 million people about 860 kilometers (540 miles) south of Manila.

The military says it has recaptured 70 percent of the coastal areas occupied by the rebels and rescued more than 100 hostages.

About 64 hostages were freed or escaped during military operations early Tuesday, followed by another 14 who walked to freedom in separate batches. That brought to 116 the number of those rescued in the last 18 hours, Zagala said.

He said more than 100 Moro National Liberation Front rebels were still holding hostages in the remaining pockets they

control in five coastal villages in Zamboanga.

Nearly 82,000 residents have fled the fighting into several emergency shelters, including the city's main sports complex.

President Benigno Aquino III has been in Zamboanga since Friday to oversee the handling of the worst security crisis his administration has faced since he came to power in 2010.

The Moro insurgents, led by Nur Misuari, signed a peace deal in 1996, but the guerrillas did not lay down their arms and later accused the government of reneging on a promise to develop long-neglected Muslim regions in the south of the predominantly Roman Catholic nation.

The rebels have become increasingly restive in recent months as they've been overshadowed by a rival rebel group that engaged Aquino's government in peace talks brokered by Malaysia. Thiae talks have steadily progressed toward a new and potentially larger autonomy deal for minority Muslims in the south.

Afghan president says no rush for US security deal

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghanistan's president said Tuesday that he was in no rush to sign a security deal with the United States, once again dashing American hopes that a pact can be quickly finalized.

The United States wants a deal by October to give American and NATO military planners enough time to prepare for to keep some troops in the country after a scheduled 2014 withdrawal, instead of a total pull-out.

Afghanistan and the United States have since last October been negotiating a security deal that will give the U.S. a legal basis for having forces in Afghanistan after 2014, and also allow it to lease bases around the country. If the U.S. does not sign the

deal, it is unlikely that NATO or any of its allies will keep troops in Afghanistan after 2014.

Karzai however is pressing demands that the U.S. is reluctant to meet, and also is believed to want to shield himself from any possible backlash from signing a deal that some see as compromising Afghan sovereignty.

"The Americans wanted this security agreement in March or April, and now they are trying to bring it in October. But we want to do well, not to hurry; they are in a rush, not us. We are very relaxed," Hamid Karzai told a youth conference in the capital.

He added that if by October the United States can't meet a set of wide-ranging conditions, including security guarantees

for the country and pledges for modern weaponry, then they could sign a deal with his successor after the April 5 elections for a new head of state.

Although Karzai has never fully spelled out his conditions, some of the guarantees are thought to include the security of Afghanistan's borders from foreign intervention. It is unlikely that the U.S. would ever agree to such a condition, as Washington is reluctant to sign anything that could be read as a pledge to defend Afghan borders against a neighbor such as Pakistan.

Karzai also said any security deal would also have to be first approved by a council of Afghan elders, or Loya Jirga, a national meeting that can take weeks to organize.

engineering Toyota's growth into a global automaker. He became chairman in 1982, and continued in advisory positions up to his death.

China opens world's highest civilian airport

BEIJING (AP)—China has begun flight operations at the world's highest civilian airport in a bid to boost tourism and tighten political control over the country's restive west. At an elevation of 4,411 meters (14,472 feet) above

sea level, Daocheng Yading Airport replaces the previous champion, Bangda Airport in the Tibet Autonomous Region, which sits at 4,334 meters (14,219 feet). Aircraft engines produce less thrust at such elevations because of the much thinner air, calling for longer runways. The one at Daocheng Yading is 4,200 meters (13,780 feet) long, just 242 meters (794 feet) shorter than the longest runway at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport.

World



French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius, left, and his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov arrive for a news conference after their meeting in Moscow, Russia, on Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2013.

Russia opposes use of force in resolution on Syria

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)—Russia insisted Tuesday that a U.N. Security Council resolution governing Syria's handling of its chemical weapons not allow the use of force, but it suggested that could change if Damascus reneges on the deal to give up its stockpile.

The main Syrian opposition coalition, meanwhile, urged the international community to take swift action against the regime of President Bashar Assad in response to a U.N. finding that the nerve agent sarin was used in a deadly attack near the capital last month.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said his country "spoke clearly" about rejecting the use of force when the chemical weapons agreement was worked out Saturday in Geneva between Washington and Moscow. The plan calls for an

inventory of Syria's chemical weapons within a week, with all components of the program out of the country or destroyed by mid-2014.

But if signs emerge that Syria is not fulfilling the agreement or there are reports of further chemical weapons use, "then the Security Council will examine the situation," Lavrov said, suggesting the issue could be reconsidered.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said a resolution on the U.S.-Russia deal must be enforceable, telling reporters that the "most effective" way is under Chapter 7 of the U.N. Charter. That deals with threats to international peace and security and has provisions for enforcement by military or non-military means, such as sanctions.

While in principle all Security Council resolutions are legal-

ly binding, Ban said, "in reality, we need clear guidelines under Chapter 7."

Lavrov made his remarks at a news conference in Moscow with French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius. France and the U.S. say a military option remained on the table, and they are pushing for the U.N. resolution to reflect that.

Diplomats said the five permanent council members—the U.S., Russia, China, Britain and France—made little progress at a meeting Tuesday on a draft resolution and would meet again Wednesday.

On Monday, U.N. inspectors submitted a report on the Aug. 21 chemical weapons attack near Damascus that deepened the Syrian crisis. It was the first official confirmation by impartial experts that chemical weapons were used in the attack, which killed hundreds.

Concordia success boosts pride for shamed Italy

GIGLIO ISLAND, Italy (AP)—The extraordinary righting of the Costa Concordia from its watery Tuscan graveyard has given Italy a boost of sorely needed pride, helping erase the shame many felt after an Italian captain took the cruise ship off course in an apparent stunt, crashed it and then abandoned ship before everyone was evacuated.

It didn't seem to matter that the chief salvage master was from South Africa or that his 500-member crew hailed from 26 different nations. Italy, beset

by two years of recession and such political instability that each day brings relief that the government hasn't fallen, had pulled off an unprecedented engineering feat as the world watched live on television.

"Well done!" retiree Aldo Matarra said Tuesday morning as he surveyed the Concordia, upright for the first time since the Jan. 13, 2012, shipwreck that killed 32 people near Giglio Island.

Premier Enrico Letta also weighed in, emphasizing the importance of restoring the nation's civic pride.

As he personally thanked Franco Gabrielli, the head of Italy's civil protection agency who oversaw the project, Letta said the operation had demonstrated what it means to take responsibility for something, no matter how risky or how high the stakes.

"In this case, the public image of our country was one of fleeing responsibility," Letta said, referring to the captain's early evacuation from the ship and his subsequent refusal to reboard even after being ordered to do so by the coast guard.

UN official: World failing over climate change

LONDON (AP)—International leaders are failing in their fight against global warming, one of the United Nations' top climate officials said Tuesday, appealing directly to the world's voters to pressure their politicians into taking tougher action against the buildup of greenhouse gases.

Halldor Thorgeirsson told journalists gathered at London's Imperial College that world leaders weren't working hard enough to prevent potentially

catastrophic climate change.

"We are failing as an international community," he said. "We are not on track."

Thorgeirsson, a senior director with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, was speaking with two years left to go before the world powers gather in Paris for another round of negotiations over the future of the world's climate, which scientists warn will warm dra-

matically unless action is taken to cut down on the emission of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide.

One of the main points of contention is how to divide the burden of emissions cuts between industrialized nations and emerging economies such as India and China, the world's top carbon polluter. The lack of progress in recent years has fueled doubts over whether a binding deal is possible at all.

ASIA BRIEFS

Eiji Toyoda, key figure in Toyota's rise, dies

TOKYO (AP)—Eiji Toyoda, a member of Toyota's founding family who helped create the super-efficient "Toyota Way" production method, has died. He was 100. Toyoda, a cousin of the Japanese automaker's founder Kiichiro Toyoda, died Tuesday of heart failure at Toyota Memorial Hospital in Toyota city, central Japan, Toyota said in a statement. Eiji Toyoda served as president from 1967 to 1982,

Focus

Resort project opens tiny
Bimini to the world

AP
In this Sept. 11, 2013 photo, a yellow hut sits on the beach near the spot where Resorts World Bimini is planning to build a 1,000 foot long dock for their ship, that brings visitors from Miami in Bimini, Bahamas. A global casino company is wagering that it can bring large numbers of tourists to a now sleepy former stomping ground of Ernest Hemingway that has long defied change.

in both directions.

"Everyone understands that all of our islands rely on tourism," Carey said. "But when one thinks about going beyond what's there now, with a golf course and the jetty, well that borders on being out of scale."

Thousands have come since the cruise ship service began operating, but Joseph Roberts, a commercial fisherman and proprietor of Joe's Conch Shack, hasn't seen enough new customers to allay concerns that development will contaminate the mangroves that partially encircle Bimini.

"I've got three grandsons and I hope that one day one or two of them could be fishermen ... and make a decent living," Roberts said as he pulled a giant sea snail from its shell and chopped it for salad. "What are they going to have if you destroy everything?"

This is a place with a colorful history. In the colonial era, it was a hideout for pirates who stalked treasure-laden Spanish ships coming from South and Central America and the Caribbean. During Prohibition, liquor was legal in what was then the British Bahamas, and Bimini was a source of booze for South Florida.

Bimini has also seen its share of glamor. Hemingway visited in 1935 and then returned for the summers of 1936 and 1937, writing part of "To Have and Have Not" while there, according to the text of an exhibit in a small museum in Alice Town. Other famous visitors included Martin Luther King Jr., Sammy Davis Jr., Judy Garland and Lucille Ball, who stayed at the famed Bimini Big Game Club.

Bimini won fame again when the public learned that Gary Hart, a leading Democratic presidential candidate in the 1988 U.S. election, had taken his mistress, Donna Rice, to Bimini, where they were captured in a now-infamous photo, prompting him to drop out of the race.

Cruise ships have stopped offshore in the past and ferry service has been tried from Florida. But Resorts World Bimini Bay is unprecedented, and some Biminians and visitors question whether the venture can compete with other attractions, including Baha Mar, a \$3.4 billion hotel-and-casino project under construction in Nassau, the Bahamian capital.

BIMINI, Bahamas (AP)—Every time a cruise ship docks in Bimini, the population of this tiny archipelago just 50 miles off the coast of Miami could nearly double. That may be profitable for a

place that lives off tourism. But many worry the recent launch of a new cruise line disgorging hundreds of visitors each day could be too much of a good thing.

The ship is one component of a global casino company's project to bring unprecedented

waves of tourists to Bimini, which has long defied change. Some fear it will destroy a marine environment teeming with fish and coral, and ruin a diving and sport-fishing capital of the world.

It's also provoking somewhat of an existential crisis, posing

a challenge to Bimini's identity as a rustic and hard-to-reach getaway, known as a haunt of Ernest Hemingway and the setting for a tryst that ended a U.S. presidential run.

"Unless you are a fisherman, a diver or a drunk there was no reason to come to Bimini. But they are changing that," said dive shop operator Neal Watson. "It's getting to be a different place."

Changes are coming fast. Malaysia-based Genting Group is spending at least \$300 million on Resorts World Bimini, quickly becoming the largest employer in the cluster of islands and creating sharp new demand for housing. Working in partnership with a Florida developer, the company opened a casino in June, expects to finish a 350-room hotel by Christmas and 50 luxury villas a month later on their 700 acres of North Bimini. The company has plans for shopping, restaurants and nightclubs, is considering a second hotel and is in the process of upgrading the airport to accommodate larger planes.

"It's created more jobs, of course, and you know, it is keeping people busy," said Edith Romer Johnson, who sells lobster pizza at a shop outside the resort. "And the more money we have on the island, the more it goes around."

The Bahamian government has welcomed the project, but critics say the benefits come at too great a cost.

The Bahamas National Trust, a non-governmental environmental organization created by Parliament, as well as researchers at the Bimini Biological Field Station, where scientists come from around the world to research a thriving shark population, say runoff from a proposed golf course would

destroy a protected area of mangrove that acts as a nursery to the fish, conch and lobster that make the place a destination.

A secondary issue is the 1,000-foot jetty that Genting will build to shorten the time it takes to get off and on its ship, which began service in July. Opponents say the project will damage coral reefs; a company official says it complies with environmental regulations and that the site was chosen specifically to minimize any threat.

Genting, which has been seeking to build a casino in downtown Miami amid opposition, insists the golf course is still under consideration and would only be built if it can be done in an environmentally sensitive way.

"We are not here to ruin what Bimini is, we are not here to ruin the water, we're not here to ruin the pristine mangroves, the quaintness of the island," Dana Leibovitz, president of Resorts World Bimini, said on a recent afternoon at the edge of the casino, which was open but largely empty. "We want to integrate. We want to be part of the island and we want to continue for that to be the main draw to the island."

Bimini only has a full-time population of about 1,600—about the size of a full-capacity cruise ship—and has avoided mass tourism because of scarce air service and the passing Gulf Stream, which makes the crossing from South Florida too rough for small vessels much of the year.

For Eric Carey, executive director of the Bahamas National Trust, the Resorts World project is excessive for a place so small you can traverse the main island of North Bimini in a few minutes in a golf cart, rarely losing sight of the ocean

FIRST YEAR DEATH
ANNIVERSARY

In Loving Memory of

**BARRY ALLEN
HIRSHBEIN**

December 10, 1948 – September 19, 2012



To Barry – husband,
father, son, friend,
soldier, colleague.

*Barry – may
you rest in
eternal peace.*

From your many
friends and family
who miss your
smiling presence



Environment

Green turtles resurgent in the Southeast

By CURTIS MORGAN
THE MIAMI HERALD

MIAMI—When Archie Carr, a pioneering University of Florida ecologist, began documenting the decline of sea turtles in the 1960s, the future looked grim—particularly for the green turtle.

The green turtle had long been a Florida seafood menu staple, usually served up in the famous soup. But with the population largely eaten out of existence in state waters, most meat had to be imported. To make matters worse, eggs were routinely poached from beach nests. And hatchlings, attracted to the lights of growing coastal communities, crawled inland rather than out to sea, dying in the hot sun or under car tires.

At the low point, Carr, who died in 1987, estimated there were no more than 40 green turtle nests along the entire Florida coast, its primary nursery ground.

Now, greens are in the midst of a nesting boom from South Florida to South Carolina.

With a month left in nesting season, Florida wildlife managers say preliminary numbers show green turtle nesting has more than doubled statewide. Biologists have already tallied a record 11,500 nests in one 20-mile stretch alone—in the national refuge south of Melbourne Beach that bears Carr's name—doubling a high set only two years ago.

Green turtles, which average 350 pounds when full-grown, have even crawled ashore in not-so-inviting areas like rocky oceanside Elliott Key, giving Biscayne National Park its first documented green turtle nest.

"It's just a miracle," said Llewellyn Ehrhart, a University of Central Florida zoologist who has monitored nesting in the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge for decades. "This is one of the greatest positive stories in the history of wildlife conservation in America, mostly because they were decimated so badly."

Ehrhart and state and federal wildlife managers credit a host of save-the-sea-turtle measures enacted over the past few decades for the resurgence of nesting in the southeastern United States. Two other species that most commonly nest in Florida, the loggerhead and leatherback, also have been on a general upward trend, but not one nearly as dramatic as the green turtle.

"It's very positive, and 20-plus years of conservation efforts are really starting to pay off," said Ann Marie Lauritsen, acting national sea turtle coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Those efforts include seasonal lighting ordinances adopted by an increasing number of coastal communities to reduce street and building lights that confuse nesting turtles and development



Melanie Stadler, a marine scientist with the Gumbo Limbo Nature Center grabs four green sea turtle hatchling to release into the Atlantic ocean off the coast of Boca Raton, Fla., Thursday, Sept. 5, 2013. The crew released almost 500 sea turtle hatchlings into the Atlantic Ocean.

restrictions that have preserved crucial nesting sites like the Carr refuge, which Congress created in 1991. Its beach, which straddles Brevard and Indian River counties, typically produces about half the state's turtle nests.

A ban on gillnets that Florida enacted in 1994 to protect dwindling stocks of redfish, mullet and other shallow-water species probably had a healthy ripple effect on green turtles, which are vegetarians often found foraging in the same sea-grass meadows. Turtle extruder devices fitted to shrimp trawlers that allow turtles to escape nets and death as "by-catch" may have helped as

well—but more for deep-water species such as the loggerhead and leatherback.

Ehrhart and Blair Witherington, a scientist for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, believe the rebound really began in 1978, when the green turtle was added to the federal list of endangered species. The declaration banned the harvest of eggs, turtle fishing and any sale of sea turtle meat, domestic or imported. All five of the species that nest in Florida remain on the list today, with the green, leatherback, hawksbill and—rarest of all—Kemp's Ridley all considered

at the highest risk. The loggerhead, the most common turtle, is listed as threatened.

"When we stopped eating them, that was a pretty big effect," said Witherington. "Lo and behold, you stop hitting them on the head and killing them, and they come back."

Still, it took quite a while for sea turtles, which can live 60 or more years and do not typically reach breeding maturity for 20 to 30 years, to respond.

When Ehrhart started his beach surveys in 1982, he found fewer than 50 nests in the Archie Carr. By the early 1990s, the numbers began to bump into the

hundreds. Over the past decade, it bounced in and out of the thousands, hitting 5,500 in 2011. This year, he was shocked and thrilled to see nesting numbers leap above 10,000. Overall, he said, it represents a growth rate that, he believes, may be unprecedented in wildlife-conservation efforts.

Nesting is up across the green turtle's range, said Lauritsen, with increases in South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia as well. South Florida, which doesn't get nearly as many nests as Central Florida, has still seen its numbers jump.

"Overall in the last 33 years, I think 11 is the most we've had," said Bill Ahern, Miami-Dade County's longtime sea turtle conservationist. "We're looking at 32 green nests so far (this year). It's been amazing."

In Broward County, green turtle numbers rose from 209 last year to 458 so far this year, said Courtney Kiel, a natural resources specialist with Broward County.

One determined turtle even managed to nest on Elliott Key in Biscayne Bay, lumbering over jagged rock, then digging out plants and sand on a narrow dune strip—the first green nest ever documented in Biscayne National Park. Only about a third of the hatchlings were able to escape the thick brush on their own, so park biologists plucked out 66 others and released them in the ocean last month.

Add the 18 nests that loggerheads dug in the park, and you have an explosion of activity, said park biologist Vanessa

McDonough. "Nineteen nests may not sound like a big number to a lot, but in the last eight to nine years we've averaged four," she said.

Despite the encouraging increases, wildlife managers are not ready to pronounce sea turtles out of danger. Populations of some species remain precariously low. Kemp's Ridley turtles, which mainly nest on the Mexican Gulf Coast but sporadically are found in Florida, are thought to number fewer than a thousand nesting females. The hawksbill is also rare. Nests of the leatherback can sometimes number in the dozens in Florida.

Nesting also runs in cycles, with turtles traveling hundreds or thousands of miles to return to build nests in the same areas where they were hatched. The output can yo-yo from year to year for reasons that are not always clear. Loggerheads, the most common turtle, began to decline starting in the late 1990s, but nesting has more recently gone up and down.

"At this point, it's tough to tell for loggerheads what the long-term trend will be," said Lauritsen.

Green turtles still face a host of threats, many shared by other species. Because they frequent coastal waters, boat strikes kill or injure many turtles. They are also exposed to toxic algae blooms like red tide, as well as potentially fatal freezes. Pollution and development can degrade and damage their habitats.

JOINT ANNOUNCEMENT OF BURIAL AT SEA IN LOVING MEMORY OF

†Thomas David Pinkerton

Better known as "Tom" and "Tomas"



Tom Pinkerton was born on September 20, 1946 in Valparaiso Indiana to the late Alfred Edwin and Ayliffe Winona Pinkerton. Tom was called to eternal rest on September 10, 2013.

In college, Tom set several pitching records and was aiming towards playing professional ball before being called to service in the Marine Corps in Vietnam. Tom received the Purple Heart and other awards for his service in Vietnam.

Tom then worked as a career educator. He taught in various locations in the US mainland and Palau, and then Tom came to Saipan, where he worked for several years as a probation officer at DYS and then for more than twenty five years in various capacities at PSS educating the Commonwealth's youth.

Tom was a loving father. He is survived by his children, son Tomas Roberto Pinkerton, daughters Elliz Anne Pinkerton Camacho (Mike Camacho) and Emarigold Ivy Pinkerton, and also by his sister, Jackie Pinkerton Vermilyer.

We, the family of Tom Pinkerton, wish to extend our sincere thanks to the nurses and staff of Marianas Health Care Services, CHC, the Aldrich family, Evelyn Pangelinan, Tom Clifford, Bob McCausland, Dave Dougherty, Ed Tudor and the VFW. Tom will be missed by his numerous former colleagues, friends and former students.

†Tommy Lee Gibson

Better Known as "Tom"



Tom Gibson was born on August 23, 1949 in Winfield, Kansas to the late Thomas Garland and Mildred Maudine George Gibson. Tom was called to eternal rest on September 16, 2013.

Tom received numerous decorations for his service in the Navy in Vietnam. He was a member of VA-55 flying out of Lemoore, California.

Tom spent his civilian career in various telecommunications positions in California before moving to Guam in the early 1990's where he served as Vice President of Engineering for GuamCell, before working for several years for Docomo Pacific and then retiring.

Tom Gibson is survived by his wife Chun Mei Gibson, and his son Michael Gibson and his daughter Michele in the U.S. mainland.

We, the family of Tom Gibson, wish to extend our sincere thanks to the nurses and staff of CHC, Andy Hogeboom, Roy Ortizo, Ana, Sam Petty, Dave Dougherty, Ed Tudor and the VFW, and Docomo Pacific. Tom will also be missed by his numerous former colleagues and friends.

On Friday, September 20, 2013 at 9:30 a.m., a brief service for Tom Pinkerton and Tom Gibson will be held at Smiling Cove Marina followed by burial at sea. Colleagues, family and friends are welcome to come to Smiling Cove to pay their last respects as they depart on the Landing Craft Mechanized, Mark 8 ("LCM-8") Pacific Marine 1.

Life & Style

Red cape drawing bids during Jackson Jr. auction

CHICAGO (AP)—A showy red cape and an autographed Michael Jackson poster drew the most interest from potential buyers as a government auction of around a dozen personal items forfeited by prison-bound ex-congressman Jesse Jackson Jr. got underway Tuesday.

The online auction, which will accept bids over two weeks, is the U.S. Marshals Service way of trying to recoup part of the \$750,000 in campaign funds the Chicago Democrat and his wife, Sandra, illegally spent—often to satisfy penchants for attention-grabbing clothes and pop-culture keepsakes.

The red cashmere cape drew the most attention in the hours just after bidding began early Tuesday. By evening, it registered 39 bids—pushing the initial asking price from around \$300 to \$965. Court documents say Jackson purchased it—with campaign funds—for \$1,500 from an Edwards Lowell Furs store.

After a sluggish start, bidding surged during the day for a framed poster dedicated to the 25th anniversary of Michael Jackson's "Thriller" album—and signed by the pop star himself. By Tuesday evening, there were 45 bids for it, with the highest bidder willing to part with \$1,560 for the pleasure of owning it.

Bids were fewer and farther between for a framed Bruce Lee autograph: It tallied a mere 16 bids by the evening. The highest was for \$450.

Calculating existing bids for all the items being auctioned



This undated photo provided by Texas-based Gaston & Sheehan Auctioneers, Inc. shows a Michael Jackson autographed poster from the 25th anniversary of "Thriller" that once belonged to former Illinois Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr.

Jack Johnson is back, more mellow than ever

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Want to hear the sound of pure contentment? Pop on the new Jack Johnson record.

If you thought the Hawaii-based folk-rock singer was ultramellow before, wait until you hear "From Here to Now to You."

"I just write about whatever it is that's on my mind," Johnson

said. "This record has been a lot of just sort of being in the family in just kind of my own little bubble. Dropping the kids off at school, and just day-to-day life, just washing the dishes, working in the garden, taking the trash out. That's not necessarily what the songs are about, but that's kind of where I was liv-

ing, in that space."

It's a very comfortable space. "From Here to Now to You," out Tuesday, is his sixth album and moves away from the darker, more electric-oriented music on his last two albums, which were filled with songs affected by the deaths of his father and a cousin.

There's a gentle, rolling rhythm throughout the album's 12 tracks with a handful of love songs aimed at his wife and others examining fatherhood. There's even one called, "Washing Dishes."

The songs were mostly written on an acoustic guitar on Johnson's front porch on the North Shore of Oahu, recorded in his studio and created with his friends, including his longtime band members, Ben Harper and producer Mario Caldato Jr., who recorded Johnson's second and third albums in the mid-2000s.



In this June 15, 2013 file photo, Jack Johnson performs on Day 3 of the 2013 Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival in Manchester, Tenn.

NYC's Rainbow Room will reopen to public in 2014

NEW YORK (AP)—New York City's Rainbow Room, where music greats Tommy Dorsey, Guy Lombardo and others performed, will reopen to the public in the fall of 2014.

The iconic nightclub at Rockefeller Center closed in 2009 amid a landlord-tenant dispute. Tishman Speyer, which operates Rockefeller

Center, made the reopening announcement Tuesday.

The Rainbow Room opened as a supper club in 1934 after the repeal of Prohibition. Over the years, legendary performers including Louis Armstrong and Tony Bennett have entertained there. The city granted it landmark status in October 2012, saying its art deco-style

decor "came to epitomize New York City."

The restaurant development company Blau + Associates will oversee the reopening process.

Gabellini Sheppard Architects will design the Rainbow Room's public spaces.

An executive chef will be announced in the coming months.

as of Wednesday evening, the feds looked to rake in more than \$7,000 from the Jackson auction. Dozens of other frivolities he spent his donors' money on, including two stuffed elk heads and a football signed by U.S. presidents, aren't part of this auction.

The Jackson items up for auction aren't the oddest the Marshals Service has sold off to help pay felons' fines or court-mandated restitution. The underwear of convicted Wall Street fraudster Bernie Madoff was once auctioned by the same Texas-based company contracted to sell the Jackson belongings.

The notoriety surrounding a criminal case can sometimes boost the value of objects that—ironically in the Jacksons' case—become celebrity memorabilia in their own right, explained Jason Rzepniewski, an auctioneer at the Texas company, Gaston & Sheehan Auctioneers Inc.

Buyers have until Sept. 26 to bid at www.txauction.com for any of the Jacksons' former possessions that tug at their

heart strings.

As the auction began Tuesday, one option for eager buyers was a guitar supposedly signed by both Eddie Van Halen and Michael Jackson, which prosecutors said the former congressman spent \$4,000 in campaign funds to purchase. But hours later, it was scratched from the auction. The U.S. Marshals Service said it was pulled from the auction because of questions about its authenticity.

Jesse Jackson Jr., the 48-year-old son of civil rights leader the Rev. Jesse Jackson and a one-time golden boy of Democratic politics, is now effectively broke thanks to his legal troubles, his lawyers have said.

He also faces prison time.

Within the next several months, Jackson must leave his two school-aged kids and enter a federal facility to begin serving a 2 1/2-year term for to scheming to spend campaign funds on himself and his wife. The same federal judge who sentenced Jackson last month also imposed a yearlong sentence on his wife.

Bareilles: Happy with success after Perry chatter

NEW YORK (AP)—Sara Bareilles says although she doesn't think Katy Perry's "Roar" steals from her song "Brave," she's enjoying her tune's newfound success because of the chatter.

"I was stoked. I was like, 'Great,'" Bareilles said in an interview Tuesday. "I was like, 'You guys want to go get (mad) about something and buy my music, that's great.'"

Music fans caused a stir when Perry released "Roar" last month, claiming she stole the song's melody from Bareilles' "Brave," released in April. "Roar" is currently No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart, and Bareilles' song shot to the Top 40 after the Internet drama. "Brave" has reached gold status and so far has peaked at No. 31.

Bareilles said she and Perry are good friends and that they

spoke when the comparisons were made.

"I don't feel like anything was taken from me artistically. I wasn't the one having any problems with it," she said. "I've known Katy a long time. We are friends and she and I spoke about it. I look at it as two female artists who are releasing a message of empowerment."

The 33-year-old singer-songwriter said she's upset with some of the fans, though.

"To be totally honest, I was sort of disappointed in how aggressive fans were being about it," she said. "I don't promote drama in my life and competition and stuff like that."

"Brave" was co-written with fun. guitarist Jack Antonoff. It's the first single from Bareilles' third album, "The Blessed Unrest," released in July.



In this April 30, 2013 file photo, singer-songwriter Sara Bareilles visits radio station Mix 106 Performance Theater, in Philadelphia.

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MORTAL INSTRUMENTS 3D [CC] (PG-13) (405 PM) 705 PM

ONE DIRECTION EXTENDED 3D [CC] (PG) 715 PM

LEE DANIELS' THE BUTLER [CC] (NR) (400 PM) 700 PM

PLANES [CC] (PG) (445 PM) 710 PM

PERCY JACKSON: SEA OF MONSTERS [CC] (PG) 725 PM

PERCY JACKSON: SEA OF MONSTERS 3D [CC] (PG) (425 PM)

Times For 09/19 © 2013 www.REGmovies.com

Mark Wahlberg no longer a high school dropout

BOSTON (AP)—Mark Wahlberg is now a high school graduate—25 years after dropping out of a Boston high school.

The 42-year-old actor-producer finished his diploma requirements after taking classes online. He dropped out of Copley Square High School, now known as Snowden International School at Copley, in the 9th grade.

The Boston Globe reported Tuesday (bo.st/1emw7me) that Wahlberg wrote of the struggles he faced growing up surrounded by “drugs, violence and crime” in a column in The Huffington Post on Monday.

In the column he says he’s been taking classes and studying while on movie sets, traveling and at home.

In June 2012, Wahlberg announced he was going back to school with the help of Snowden headmaster Kerry Torndorf who enrolled Wahlberg in his school’s Accelerated Learning Academy.



Mark Wahlberg, left, and Lupita Nyong'o attend InStyle & Hollywood Foreign Press Association's Annual Toronto International Film Festival Party, hosted by Salvatore Ferragamo on Monday, Sept. 9, 2013, held at the Windsor Arms Hotel in Toronto.

Britney Spears announces Las Vegas residency

NEW YORK (AP)—After months of rumors and hint-dropping, pop icon Britney Spears revealed what she called her “(not-so-)secret” news—she’s heading to Las Vegas.

The 31-year-old pop star confirmed a two-year residency at Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino on ABC’s “Good Morning America” on Tuesday. “Britney: Piece of Me” will debut Dec. 27, just in time for Las Vegas’ massive New Year’s crowds. Spears announced 16 dates, but she will perform 50 shows each in 2014 and 2015.

Spears was flown to a dry lake bed in the Nevada desert for the pre-dawn announcement. About 1,300 people had been bused to the



Brittany Spears announces her new show at Planet Hollywood Vegas on Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2013 in Las Vegas.

remote location in the wee hours of the morning, and were waiting for her dressed in Britney Spears T-shirts or the singer’s signature schoolgirl look from her “... Baby One More Time” music video.

The Grammy-winning singer’s confirmation about the residency comes after much online speculation, including some of her own Vegas-themed tweets. She said in an interview on “GMA” that the show will feature her greatest hits as well as new material.

“I’m definitely ready,” she said in a taped interview, adding that she’s training five hours each day.

Spears’ helicopter hovered in the desert above her fans, who were holding giant cards that formed a 10-story-tall picture of her. The singer stepped off the aircraft and said she was feeling sick. After a second—and live—interview with “GMA,” she headed back to the helicopter, barely smiling and offering little more than a wave.

A tweet about the experi-

ence later showed up on her Twitter profile.

“Y’all that will be the last time u EVER see me in a helicopter. Love u (at)GMA & that was INCREDIBLE but helicopters are not for this girl :,” it read.

Tickets for “Britney: Piece of Me” go on sale Sept. 20. Prices range from \$59 to \$179.

The show will take place in an “intimately-sized” theater with nightclub touches, including table and bottle service.

Spears, who debuted on the music scene in 1999, has released seven platinum-plus albums. She has more than a dozen Top 10 hits, including “Toxic,” “Gimme More” and “Oops!... I Did It Again.”

She released a new song, “Work (Expletive),” this week. It’s from her untitled eighth album, due out Dec. 3, which will include songs about her ex-fiance Jason Trawick.

“They suck,” she said. “Breakups suck.”

Springsteen returns to Argentina after 25 years

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—Bruce Springsteen has mustered his best Spanish in a tribute to the people of Argentina, posting an internet version of the song “I only ask of God” (Solo le pido a Dios) that he said he learned from the late Argentine folk singer Mercedes Sosa.

Exhausted at the end of a 3-hour, 20-minute marathon concert in Buenos Aires Saturday night, he told the crowd that he was too tired to sing it then without botching it, and invited fans to look on his website in the coming days.

By Tuesday, he had made good on his promise, posting on http://bruce.springsteen.net a soulful bilingual version of the Leon Gieco song that became an anthem for Argentines recovering from their 1976-1983 dictatorship.

Introducing it in Spanish, he recalled his last visit to Argentina in 1988, as part of Amnesty International’s “Human Rights Now!” tour.

“My memories of that time are still very much alive. We came to Argentina when the country was going through a difficult time, and fighting for its future. For a foreigner, Argentina was very much alive, promising,” he said. “So it’s a huge inspiration for me to return here, and I want to leave this song to the people of Argentina.”

Springsteen’s latest “Wrecking Ball” album is very much in keeping Latin American protest music, with songs such as “Shackled and Drawn” blaming bankers and corporate executives for ruining the U.S. economy, and he’s been summoning kindred spirits during his tour of Chile, Argentina and Brazil.

In Santiago, he eulogized folk singer Victor Jara, who was killed during the 1973 coup there, and sang Jara’s “Manifesto.” Springsteen next performs in Sao Paulo on Wednesday and Rio de Janeiro on Saturday.

Husband’s retirement is not what it’s cracked up to be

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: My husband lost his job more than a year ago because his plant closed. He was almost retirement age, so he took an early retirement. The problem is he isn’t adjusting well to the change.

He has his hobbies, but he seems to have lost interest in them. He is angry a lot of the time and lost at other times.

I understand it’s a huge adjustment for him, but I’m concerned that it has been going on too long. I have tried to get him interested in things, but he doesn’t take my suggestions well anymore. He thinks I want him out of my hair, but it’s not true. I want him to be happy.

I know he’s depressed but he denies it. When other people ask how he likes retirement, he says he loves it. I think he feels silly for not enjoying it. He doesn’t want to spend money for counseling, even though he knows he can get the fee adjusted according to our income.

I’m at a loss about what to do to help him. He reads your column regularly, and I think he would take seriously any advice you could offer.

CONCERNED WIFE IN MICHIGAN

DEAR CONCERNED WIFE: Retirement is not for everyone, and not everybody “loves it.” That’s why it’s so important that before a person retires, he or she have a plan in place for staying mentally and physically active.

Your husband may have valuable skills he could pass on by mentoring others. He could volunteer in the community, delivering meals to shut-ins, coaching youngsters’ sports, help out at the police department or a hospital. All he needs to do is go to his computer and type in “volunteer opportunities in Michigan” to find plenty of opportunities. He can donate as little or as much time as he wants. But first, he will have to admit that he ISN’T loving retirement and needs an outlet. Please make sure he sees this column.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I’m 12, and for the last five months my family hasn’t been getting along. We act like we love each other, but I’m not so sure. My mom and dad have been fighting. I saw something Mom left on our computer she had been looking at, and the title was “How to Let Go of Emotions During the Divorce Process.” I don’t know if my parents are getting a divorce or not, but it’s slowly tearing my family apart, and I don’t know what to do. What can I do to prevent it?

CONFUSED PRE-TEEN

DEAR CONFUSED: Tell your mother you saw the article she left on the computer, and ask her if she and your dad are separating. If the answer is yes, tell her you hope they’re getting counseling.

It is important you understand that while they both love YOU, they have reached a point where their relationship may no longer be working. Much as you might like to, there is nothing you can “do” to head this off because their problem has only to do with them and not you.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I was just wondering why when men drink and get drunk, they always talk about themselves.

HEATHER IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

DEAR HEATHER: They may do it because the alcohol allows them to loosen up and open up. Or, because they think the subject is fascinating, and you are a willing listener.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order “How to Have a Lovely Wedding.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

‘Mad Men’ to wrap its run with 2-part final season

NEW YORK (AP)—AMC is keeping “Mad Men” around an extra year, expanding the final season of this acclaimed drama series to 14 episodes and portioning them equally in 2014 and 2015.

The network said Tuesday that seven episodes will air next spring and another seven in 2015. Previous “Mad Men” seasons have spanned 13 episodes.

Series creator Matthew Weiner said the two-part season will enable “a more elaborate story” to be told.

The arrangement mirrors that of another AMC series, “Breaking Bad,” whose final season, now nearing its end, was similarly split in two.

“Mad Men,” which premiered in 2007, has won four Emmy awards for outstanding drama series. It heads into Sunday’s awards night with four major Emmy nominations, including best actor for Jon Hamm, who has never won.



This TV publicity image released by AMC shows Jon Hamm as Don Draper, left, and Jessica Pare as Megan Draper in a scene from “Mad Men.”

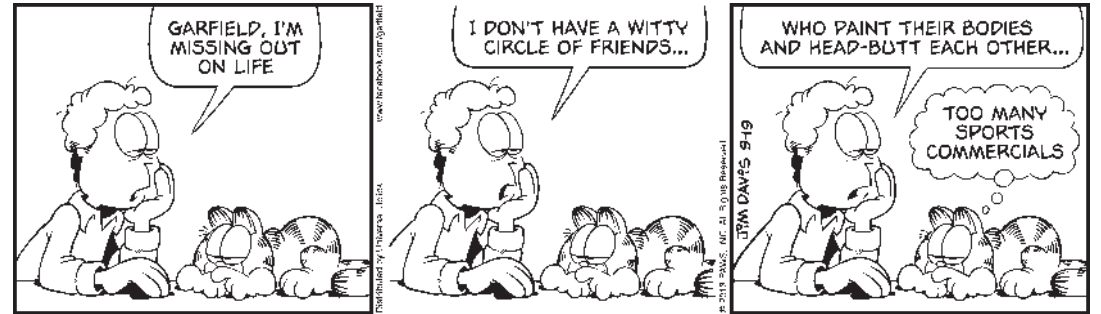
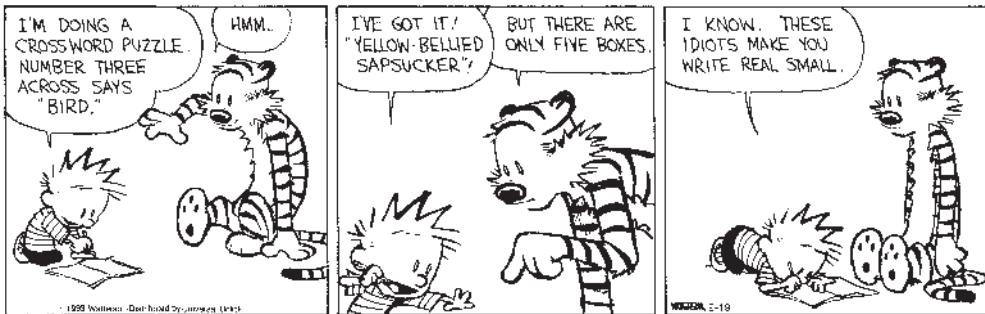
Pastimes

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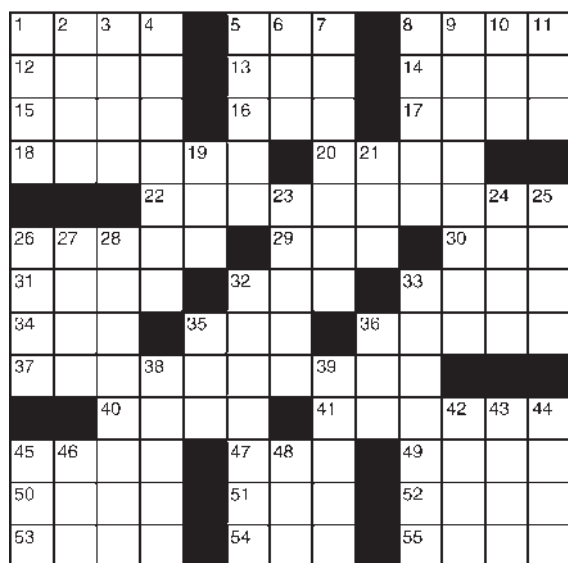
CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 City of India
- 5 Drunkard
- 8 Gambling game
- 12 Air-show stunt
- 13 Automobile
- 14 Prayer ending
- 15 Jostle
- 16 Exist
- 17 Relinquish
- 18 Horrify
- 20 Basin accessory
- 22 What they say about you
- 26 Stream-lined
- 29 Plague
- 30 Prompt
- 31 Use a phone
- 32 Cleo's slayer
- 33 Own, Biblically
- 34 Expert
- 35 Bullring bravo
- 36 Super-man's adoptive parents
- 37 Last Bible book
- 40 Tosses in bottle
- 41 Baby attachment
- 45 Ballet leap
- 47 Family
- 49 Watchful one
- 50 Shake-speare's river
- 51 Citric cooler
- 52 Jagged rock
- 53 Earth's neighbor
- 54 Neither mate
- 55 Gambling game
- DOWN**
- 1 Actress Jessica
- 2 Rise
- 3 Cavort
- 4 Garb
- 5 Resell for a huge profit
- 6 Rowing need
- 7 Cradle locale, in song
- 8 Aspect
- 9 Cheese choice
- 10 Crimson
- 11 Individual
- 19 Money of Albania
- 21 Get bigger
- 23 Unexpected defeat
- 24 Expel
- 25 Profits
- 26 Wound souvenir
- 27 Chantilly, for one
- 28 Lift
- 32 Juneau resident
- 33 Be shrewish
- 35 Anti-quoted
- 36 Japanese pond fish
- 38 Perfect places
- 39 Central
- 42 Combustible heap
- 43 Slender
- 44 Therefore
- 45 Predicament
- 46 Actress Mendes
- 48 Altar affirmative



Yesterday's answer 9-19



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Kevin Zegers, 29; Alison Sweeney, 37; Jimmy Fallon, 39; Trisha Yearwood, 49.

Happy Birthday: Get ready for change and challenges. Utilize every skill and experience you have picked up along the way and prepare to expand your interests, explore new concepts and mix the old with the new in order to come up with what works best for you. Love is on the rise, and greater commitment should be included in your personal plans. Your numbers are 3, 11, 21, 26, 33, 37, 40.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Question what's being offered if you are considering a contract, new position or any other matter that can influence your life personally or professionally. Your astute and clear way of dealing with people will ensure you get what you want. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Do whatever needs to be done and keep moving. Relying on others will lead to disappointment and frustration. A relationship with a friend or colleague will improve and lead to an interesting opportunity. Love is in the stars. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Concentrate on what you can do to help others. Fixing up your residence will add to your entertainment and pleasure. A physical overhaul will make you feel good and help you present whatever you want to do with greater confidence. ****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't procrastinate when there is so much to do. A change at work will improve your status and your personal life. Network more and expand your friendships with people who work

in your industry. Romance will bring high rewards. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Find simple alternatives to fix any problem you face at home or with family. Being secretive will help you avoid interference. Take note of the way people from different backgrounds handle similar situations. A change is in order. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Reconsider what you want to do before you jump in and make a mistake. Planning each move methodically will help you reach a practical solution. Someone you want to impress will admire your common sense. Love is heading your way. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Size up your situation and concentrate on what will bring you the best return professionally. Don't rely on anyone to do your job. You'll open up new opportunities by stepping into the limelight and handling whatever you face with finesse and confidence. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Relax and have some fun. Nurturing important relationships will be just as necessary as completing your chores. Romance and planning outings that will bring you closer to someone special will be well worth your time and effort. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Take care of domestic concerns. Renovations or making a residential move will enrich your life and jumpstart your imagination and ideas for future successes. Come up with alternative solutions to promote a cause or help someone you care about. *****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): An opportunity may arise that will be too good to walk away from. Share your ideas and you will form a partnership that can enhance your life. Mixing business with pleasure will pay off emotionally and financially. **



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Look over your money matters and consider what you can do to utilize your skills and talents to the fullest. Don't underestimate your ability or let anyone deter you from following your aspirations. It's up to you to make change happen. ****



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Back away from anyone showing erratic tendencies. Put your faith in your own ability and use your creative imagination when it comes to dealing with personal matters that can influence the way you look, feel and prosper in the future. ***

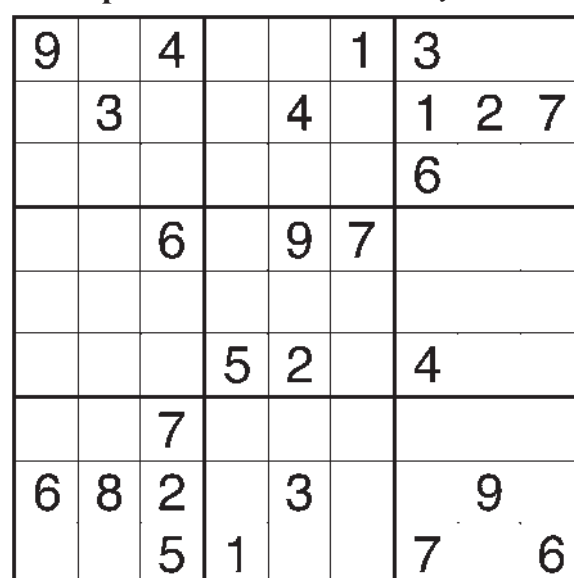
Birthday Baby: You are competitive and an opportunist. You stand out in a crowd.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



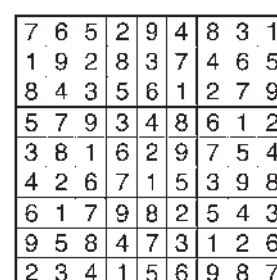
Difficulty Level ★★★

9/19

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

DON'T TELL LIES

Solution: 7 letters



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Yesterday's Answer: Tee Off

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(1) Oriental Acupuncture & Oriental Medicine Advisor for Tropical Healing Garden

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WORLD RESORT

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPEN DATE: September 19, 2013 CLOSE DATE: September 26, 2013 Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum two (2) years experience in culinary experience. Applicants with formal training/education in culinary arts strongly preferred. Position may require employee to receive food handler related health examinations and clearances as condition to their continued employment.	POSITION: Cook (Mandarin, Korean, Japanese) SALARY: Negotiable
OPEN DATE: September 19, 2013 CLOSE DATE: September 26, 2013 Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum three (3) years experience in massage therapy. A graduate of vocational course in massage therapy or reflexology strongly preferred.	POSITION: Masseuse Therapist SALARY: Negotiable
OPEN DATE: September 19, 2013 CLOSE DATE: September 26, 2013 Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent; Water Park or Amusement Park management/supervision experience highly preferred. Minimum two (2) years experience in hotel outlet operations required.	POSITION: Activity Supervisor (Water Park) SALARY: Negotiable
OPEN DATE: September 19, 2013 CLOSE DATE: September 26, 2013 Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum two (2) years experience in a cashier type occupation preferred. Must have strong accounting and money handling skills. Must show strong integrity and morality.	POSITION: Cashier (Water Park) SALARY: Minimum Wage
OPEN DATE: September 19, 2013 CLOSE DATE: September 26, 2013 Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent required. Obtaining a lifeguard certification may be a required for continued employment. Must have friendly and outgoing personality.	POSITION: Lifeguard (Full Time & Part-time) SALARY: Minimum Wage
OPEN DATE: September 19, 2013 CLOSE DATE: September 26, 2013 Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent required. Minimum two (2) years in housekeeping or commercial cleaning preferred. Must have a friendly personality and willingness to provide service to customers.	POSITION: Housekeeping Attendant SALARY: Minimum Wage
OPEN DATE: September 19, 2013 CLOSE DATE: September 26, 2013 Qualifications: High school graduate or equivalent required. Experience as a hotel bellhop preferred. Must have excellent people skills, willingness to provide service, friendly attitude and a ready smile.	POSITION: Bellhop Attendant SALARY: Minimum Wage

For more information, please contact the Human Resources Team at (670) 234-5900 ext. 274/266/576.

Employment application forms are available at the Saipan World Resort, Security Office, located next to the Wave Jungle/Water Park. Applicants must submit the completed form and all the necessary requirements to the Security Office. Incomplete application will not be accepted by the Security Office.

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Nationals sweep Braves after tragedy



WASHINGTON
(AP) — Tanner Roark threw seven shutout innings as

the Washington Nationals beat the Atlanta Braves 4-0 to sweep a day-night doubleheader Tuesday, ensuring the Braves leave Washington without the NL East title.

Roark (7-0) allowed just two hits, struck out six and retired the final 13 batters he faced.

Ryan Zimmerman hit a home run, Ian Desmond an RBI double and Adam LaRoche an RBI single in the eighth inning. Steve Lomardozzi had a second-inning RBI single off Freddy Garcia (1-2).

Washington entered the nightcap, which followed the Nationals' 6-5 win in the makeup of a series opener postponed by a shooting rampage a day earlier at the nearby Navy Yard, within 4½ games of Cincinnati for the NL's second wild-card berth. The Nationals, who have won 10 of 11, have 11 games remaining.

Craig Kimbrel had converted 37 consecutive save chances since early May, and Andreton Simmons began the day with the second-best fielding percentage among National League shortstops. But they conspired to blow a three-run lead in the ninth inning of the first game.

Kimbrel (3-3), who leads the major leagues with 47 saves, blew a save chance for just the fourth time this season.

Cardinals 11, Rockies 4

In Denver, Matt Holliday had four hits, including a two-run homer, to help St. Louis take over sole possession of the NL Central lead.

The Cardinals entered the night tied with Pittsburgh, which lost 5-2 at home to San Diego. St. Louis reduced its magic number for clinching a playoff spot to five with 11 games remaining.

Joe Kelly (9-4) allowed three hits over five sharp innings before turning a 10-0 lead over to the bullpen.

Juan Nicasio (8-8) lasted just 2 2-3 innings and allowing eight runs, which tied a career high.

Holliday led an 18-hit night by the Cardinals, who had seven players with at least two hits. Holliday finished 4 for 4 with a walk, double and two-run homer against his former team. He drove in three runs and scored twice.

The Cardinals ran away with the game in the third when they sent 11 batters to the plate and scored six times. Daniel Descalso had a two-run triple in the inning, while Holliday added a double and an RBI single.

Padres 5, Pirates 2

In Pittsburgh, Jedd Gyorko blasted a three-run homer among his three hits for San Diego.

Ronny Cedeno added three hits for San Diego, which beat the Pirates for the second straight game and dropped Pittsburgh one game behind St. Louis in the NL Central. The Cardinals beat the Rockies 7-2.

Luke Gregerson worked the ninth for his fourth save.

Eric Stults (9-13) allowed two runs over five innings to pick up his first win in more than two months. Stults struck out five and walked one.

Andrew McCutchen went 2 for 3 and Marlon Byrd drove in both of Pittsburgh's runs.

Dodgers 9, Diamondbacks 3

In Phoenix, Juan Uribe and Adrian



Holding Navy hats, Washington Nationals manager Davey Johnson, right, and others observe a moment of silence before a baseball game against the Atlanta Braves at Nationals Park Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2013, in Washington. The Nationals wore Navy hats, presented to them by Adm. James A. Winnefield, vice-chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, before the game, to honor those killed and injured in the attack Monday at the nearby Washington Navy Yard.

Gonzalez homered and Zack Greinke pitched six strong innings as Los Angeles inched closer to clinching the NL West title.

One day after coming off the disabled list, Matt Kemp went 4 for 4 with two doubles and three RBIs.

The Dodgers, who once languished in last place 9½ games out, snapped a four-game skid and can clinch the division title by beating Arizona on Wednesday night.

Greinke (15-3) allowed two runs and six hits in six innings to improve to 7-0 in his last nine starts.

Patrick Corbin (14-7) gave up six runs and seven hits in two innings plus three batters, his shortest outing of the year. After starting the season 12-1, Corbin is 2-6 in his last 10 starts.

Phillies 6, Marlins 4

In Philadelphia, Chase Utley hit a three-run homer and drove in four runs and Roy Halladay tossed six effective innings for Philadelphia.

Halladay (4-4) allowed one run and four hits in his fifth start after returning from right shoulder surgery. The two-time Cy Young Award winner didn't top 88 mph and relied on guile to get outs.

The top three hitters in Philadelphia's lineup — Cesar Hernandez, Jimmy Rollins and Utley — were 8 for 12 with four RBIs and six runs.

Jonathan Papelbon allowed an RBI single to Giancarlo Stanton before finishing for his 28th save in 35 chances.

Marlins starter Brian Flynn (0-2) gave up six runs and 11 hits in six innings.

Giants 8, Mets 5

In New York, San Francisco's Angel Pagan homered, tripled and drove in three runs on a perfect night at the plate against his former team.

Pagan went 3 for 3 with two walks and scored twice from the leadoff spot for the Giants, who have won four straight and seven of nine. His tie-breaking homer in the seventh inning made a winner of Yusmeiro Petit (4-0) in his second start since nearly pitching a perfect game.

Pagan homered off Sean Henn (0-1) leading off the seventh to give the Gi-

ants a 5-4 lead. It was his first home run since an inside-the-park shot that ended a 6-5 victory over Colorado on May 25.

Pagan spent four seasons with the Mets before they traded him to San Francisco in December 2011.

Brewers 4, Cubs 3

In Milwaukee, pinch-hitter Logan Schafer dropped a suicide squeeze bunt with the bases loaded in the ninth to give Milwaukee the win.

Aramis Ramirez walked to open the inning off Justin Grimm (0-2), who came on to start the ninth.

Jeff Bianchi pinch-ran for Ramirez and advanced on Carlos Gomez's single to center. Grimm then mishandled Scooter Gennett's sacrifice bunt for an error to load the bases.

After Caleb Gindl popped out, Schafer put down a slow roller toward the mound, scoring Bianchi.

Jim Henderson (5-5) allowed a lead-off double in the top of the ninth, but retired three straight for the win.

Cubs starter Jeff Samardzija struck out eight in seven innings, giving him 203 strikeouts in 201 2-3 innings this season.

Rangers 7, Rays 1

In Florida, Ian Kinsler and Elvis Andrus homered and drove in three runs each as the Texas Rangers snapped a seven-game losing streak with a 7-1 victory over the Tampa Bay Rays on Tuesday.

The Rangers pulled even with the Rays at the top of the AL wild-card race.

The Rangers, who held the No. 1 wild-card spot or the AL West lead for most of the summer, won for only the fourth time in 17 games.

Kinsler hit Jeremy Hellickson's first pitch for his 12th home run, breaking a streak of seven homerless games for the Rangers, their longest in 23 years. The 1-0 lead marked the first time Texas has led in a game since its last victory, on Sept. 8.

Orioles 3, Red Sox 2

In Boston, Danny Valencia tripled to stop closer Koji Uehara's streak of 37 consecutive outs and pinch-runner Alexi Casilla scored on Matt Wieters'

sacrifice fly in the ninth inning to lift Baltimore over Boston.

The Orioles overcame a 2-0 deficit on Brian Roberts' run-scoring ground-out in the fifth and Chris Davis' 51st homer of the season in the sixth that tied the score 2-2. Davis broke the club record set by Brady Anderson in 1996.

Uehara (4-1) fell four outs short of Bobby Jenks' major league record for a reliever of 41 consecutive retired batters set in 2007 and Mark Buehrle's mark for all pitchers of 45 in 2009. The run was the first off Uehara in 30 2-3 innings and ended a streak of 27 scoreless outings since July 9.

Tigers 6, Mariners 2

In Detroit, Miguel Cabrera homered and Austin Jackson hit a two-run single as Detroit held off Seattle despite a short-handed bullpen.

The AL Central-leading Tigers were ahead 3-2 when they escaped a bases-loaded jam in the eighth while playing without closer Joaquin Benoit and left-handed reliever Drew Smyly. They were both given the night off.

Anibal Sanchez struck out 10 in 6 1-3 innings, but the Mariners tied it at 2 against him in the seventh, forcing Detroit's relievers into action.

Blue Jays 2, Yankees 0

In Toronto, R.A. Dickey pitched seven innings to win his fourth straight decision, and Colby Rasmus and Rajai Davis homered as Toronto handed slumping New York its fourth straight loss.

The Yankees came in 2½ games behind Texas in the AL wild card race and lost for the eighth time in 12 games. The Yankees have 11 games remaining.

Dickey (13-12) allowed four hits, walked two and struck out eight. The knuckleballer retired the final 11 batters he faced and 15 of the last 16.

Dickey has not lost since the Yankees beat him in the Bronx on Aug. 21. He's 4-0 with a 2.73 ERA in five starts since.

Indians 5, Royals 3

In Kansas City, Asdrubal Cabrera drove in the go-ahead run in the eighth inning as Cleveland rallied against Kansas City's stingy bullpen to remain a half-

game behind Texas and Tampa Bay in the AL wild-card race.

The Indians were shut out until the sixth by Yordano Ventura, who made an electric major league debut. They tied the game 3-all in the seventh off reliever Kelvin Herrera, and Cabrera's double off Wade Davis (7-11) in the eighth scored Drew Stubbs and gave Cleveland the lead.

Michael Bourn added a homer in the ninth to provide a cushion.

White Sox 4, Twins 3

In Chicago, Dayan Viciedo had three hits and drove in two runs and Jose Quintana pitched six effective innings to lead Chicago over Minnesota.

Quintana (8-6) won for the first time since he last faced the Twins, on Aug. 16. He allowed one run while scattering eight hits with five strikeouts and two walks.

After a 2-15 stretch, the White Sox won the first two games of the series against the Twins for their first series victory since Aug. 27-29 against the Astros. They have won five straight against the Twins.

White Sox closer Addison Reed pitched a scoreless ninth for his 38th save in 44 opportunities, benefiting from Alejandro De Aza's leaping catch of Trevor Plouffe's flyball against the center-field wall.

Reds 10, Astros 0

In Houston, Jay Bruce hit a grand slam and had five RBIs, Mike Leake pitched eight scoreless innings as Cincinnati handed Houston its 100th loss.

Cincinnati is 4½ games ahead of Washington for second NL wild card.

The Astros are the first major league team to lose at least 100 games in three straight seasons since Kansas City from 2004-06.

The Reds got to work early, with Zack Cozart driving in two runs in a four-run first inning.

Cincinnati was up by five in the fourth before Bruce's towering slam to the Crawford Boxes in left field pushed the lead to 9-0 and chased Jordan Lyles (7-8).

Leake (14-6) allowed five hits over eight innings and struck out six with two walks.

New faces, new places marks start of NFL season



KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Alex Smith is still winning in red. He's just doing it for the Chiefs these days.

Mike Wallace is finally happy in Miami, Anquan Boldin is making everyone happy in San Francisco, and that's just the start of the new faces in new places making a splash this season.

Wes Welker went from hauling in passes from Tom Brady in New England to doing the same from Peyton Manning in Denver - how'd he get so lucky? Steven Jackson's legs are churning in Atlanta, Darrelle Revis is defending passes in Tampa Bay and Elvis Dumervil is putting heat on quarterbacks for Baltimore after a bizarre end to his time with the Broncos.

"I feel amazing," said Dumervil, who actually agreed to a restructured contract to remain in the AFC West, only for the paper work to arrive late at the league office. Denver was forced to release Dumervil to avoid having the \$12 million he was set to make this season become guaranteed.

Dumervil still considered staying in Denver, but ultimately signed with the Ravens.

"It's always nice to get a guy in there who can bring new ideas to you and new ways of doing things and Elvis has certainly done that," Baltimore coach John Harbaugh said. "He's latched on with the things we're doing, and it's been a great mesh."

It's been a happy marriage for a lot of other high-profile players, too.

After Smith was benched in favor of Colin Kaepernick during San Francisco's NFC championship run last year, he began looking elsewhere to play this season. The 49ers worked a trade in February to send him to Kansas City, and now Smith is running the offense for new coach Andy Reid.

He's doing it well, too. Smith has thrown four touchdown passes without an interception in beating Jacksonville and Dallas, matching the Chiefs' entire win total from last season.

"From about mid-season last year I was thinking about where my next opportunity was potentially going to come," Smith said, "and when this presented itself, I jumped at it."

He wasn't alone in jumping on the Chiefs bandwagon.

Reid climbed aboard after 14 seasons leading the Eagles, and veteran defensive backs Sean Smith and Dunta Robinson were signed in free agency. Together, they've helped turn around a franchise that heads to Philadelphia on Thursday night seeking its second 3-0 start in a decade.

"The one neat thing about the business is everybody has a personality," Reid said of his team, more than half of which is new this year. "That's the way it is in life. So if you're going to get that



San Francisco 49ers wide receiver Anquan Boldin (81) is tackled by Green Bay Packers defensive back Jerron McMillian during the second quarter of an NFL football game in San Francisco, Sunday, Sept. 8, 2013.

full player, they need to express themselves, I think. That's what we do."

Wallace has had no qualms with expressing himself in Miami.

The former Steelers wide receiver was miffed that he caught only one pass in the opener, but came back to match a career high with nine catches

against the Colts on Sunday. He was acquired to give Miami a badly needed deep threat, and so far he's helped the Dolphins to a 2-0 start.

Broncos become top team in AP Pro 32 poll

DENVER (AP)—Peyton Manning and the Denver Broncos dismantled the defending Super Bowl champion Baltimore Ravens in the season opener. Then they delivered a convincing victory on the road against Manning's younger brother and the rest of the New York Giants.

The strong start helped the Broncos hold off the Seattle Seahawks for the top spot in this week's AP Pro32 power rankings, released Tuesday. The Broncos moved up one spot from second after receiving eight first-place votes.

"Denver looks Super Bowl good right now," Newsday columnist Bob Glauber said.

After their commanding win over San Francisco on Sunday night, the Seahawks swooped in to take the other four first-place votes and settle in at No. 2. The 49ers, after tallying

seven first-place votes last week, fell two spots to third.

Seattle, which was fifth last week, settled the debate until the rematch in December about which bitter NFC West division rival is better by beating the 49ers 29-3.

The Seahawks managed that even with a rough game by quarterback Russell Wilson, further highlighting their aggressive, punishing defense that's still missing cornerback Brandon Browner and defensive ends Chris Clemons and Bruce Irvin because of injuries.

"Can anyone go into Seattle and get a win?" asked voter Pat Kirwan of CBSSports.com and SiriusXM satellite radio.

Voters have even begun to envision a Denver-Seattle Super Bowl, as far ahead as February might be.

"I'm not convinced Peyton can beat

Seahawks' secondary," wrote John Czarnecki of Fox Sports.

Houston and Green Bay rounded out the top five. NBC Sports analyst Tony Dungy raised a question about the Texans.

"Two come from behind wins. Is that good or bad?" the former Colts coach asked.

New England and New Orleans tied for sixth. Chicago was eighth, Atlanta finished ninth, Kansas City jumped seven spots to 10th, and Miami made the same leap to 11th. The Dolphins were the lowest of the eight unbeaten teams.

The Saints continued their creep toward the top, catching the eye of the panel with an uncharacteristically stout defense.

"My hat is off to Rob Ryan and the defensive product he's putting on the field," Kirwan wrote, praising the coordinator. "The Saints have given up

"He's a guy that's really intellectual when it comes to football," fellow wide receiver Brian Hartline said. "Probably doesn't get a whole lot of credit for it, but he really understands the game, wants to learn more about the game and like I said, has a rare skill set."

Sounds like many of the same qualities Boldin has brought to San Francisco.

The 49ers acquired him from the Ravens for a sixth-round pick, and he's helped them overcome the loss of Michael Crabtree to a torn Achilles tendon. Boldin was shut down last week by Seattle, but had 13 catches for 208 yards and a touchdown in a Week 1 win over the Packers.

"It's my job to catch the ball. And anytime (Kaepernick) throws the ball my way, I'm going to make sure to catch it," Boldin said. "For me, it's a business. I come out to do my job."

Wallace and Boldin weren't the only high-profile wide receivers who found new digs. Welker spent six seasons in New England before signing with Denver this past offseason.

Strange as it is to see Walker in a new uniform, though, it may be stranger to see Jackson wearing Falcons threads. The veteran running back had eight straight 1,000-yard seasons for the Rams, and is now trying to help Matt Ryan and Co. pursue an elusive Super Bowl.

"He adds an incredible amount of leadership to this football team," Falcons GM Thomas Dimitroff said, "and his combination of on and off the field abilities and passion for this game is right in line with how we feel we build this football team and have built this football team the last few years. In our minds we couldn't have a more ideal fit right now."

31 points in two games. Last year they gave up 75 points in the first two games."

Added Alex Marvez of FoxSports.com: "Who Dat?!? The Saints' defense wasn't supposed to play this well in 2013."

Baltimore, Cincinnati, Dallas, Indianapolis, San Diego, Philadelphia, St. Louis, Detroit and Tennessee filled out slots 12 through 20. The Chargers made the biggest jump, advancing nine spots from 25th after a 33-30 victory on the road over the Eagles.

The bottom third comprised Arizona, Buffalo, the Giants, Minnesota, Washington, the Jets, Pittsburgh and Carolina, with Oakland and Tampa Bay tying for 29th. Then came Cleveland, one of eight teams without a win. Finally, for the second straight week, Jacksonville was a unanimous choice for last place. The Jaguars have scored 11 points over two games.

The next AP Pro32 power rankings will be released on Sept. 24.

Bethpage Black set to host PGA, Ryder Cup



FARMINGDALE, N.Y. (AP)—The Ryder Cup and PGA Championship are coming to Bethpage Black.

The PGA of America announced Tuesday that Bethpage Black will host the rowdiest event in golf in 2024, and the 2019 PGA Championship. The public course at a Long Island state park has developed a well-earned repu-

tation for loud and boisterous fans, having played host to two U.S. Open championships in 2002 and 2009. Last year, the Barclays was held there as part of the FedEx Cup playoffs.

PGA of America President Ted Bishop says players have asked for years about playing the Ryder Cup at Bethpage.

He said he was watching Phil Mickelson and Rickie Fowler during a prac-

tice round at the 2010 Ryder Cup, when Bethpage Black came up. Bishop says Fowler mused, "Can you imagine what a great home field advantage and how intimidating a Bethpage Black Ryder Cup would be?"

"This venue, this course, this city is going to take the Ryder Cup to a place that it's never been before," Bishop said.

"The PGA Championship and the

Ryder Cup tournaments will also provide a tremendous boost to the Long Island economy and put the beautiful, world-class Bethpage State Golf Course on an international stage," said Gov. Andrew Cuomo. He noted the PGA Championship held at Oak Hill near Rochester this summer brought 200,000 visitors to the region, and added \$75 million to the local economy.

Officials at Tuesday's press conference noted that New York also hosted to the first PGA Championship in

1916 in Bronxville.

"To combine the energy of the Ryder Cup with the energy of Bethpage State Park and the state of New York and New York sports fans is really exciting to think about," PGA CEO Pete Bevacqua.

Bethpage Black first held a big tournament at the 2002 U.S. Open won by Tiger Woods. It held another U.S. Open in 2009, and The Barclays in 2012 as part of the FedEx Cup playoffs. Woods will be 48 when the Ryder Cup is held at Bethpage Black.

Mayweather: I am not thinking about Pacquiao

BOXING Anyone but Manny Pacquiao. That's the adamant stance

taken by Floyd Mayweather Jr. following another masterful performance against Saul Alvarez Saturday night (Sunday in Manila) in Las Vegas.

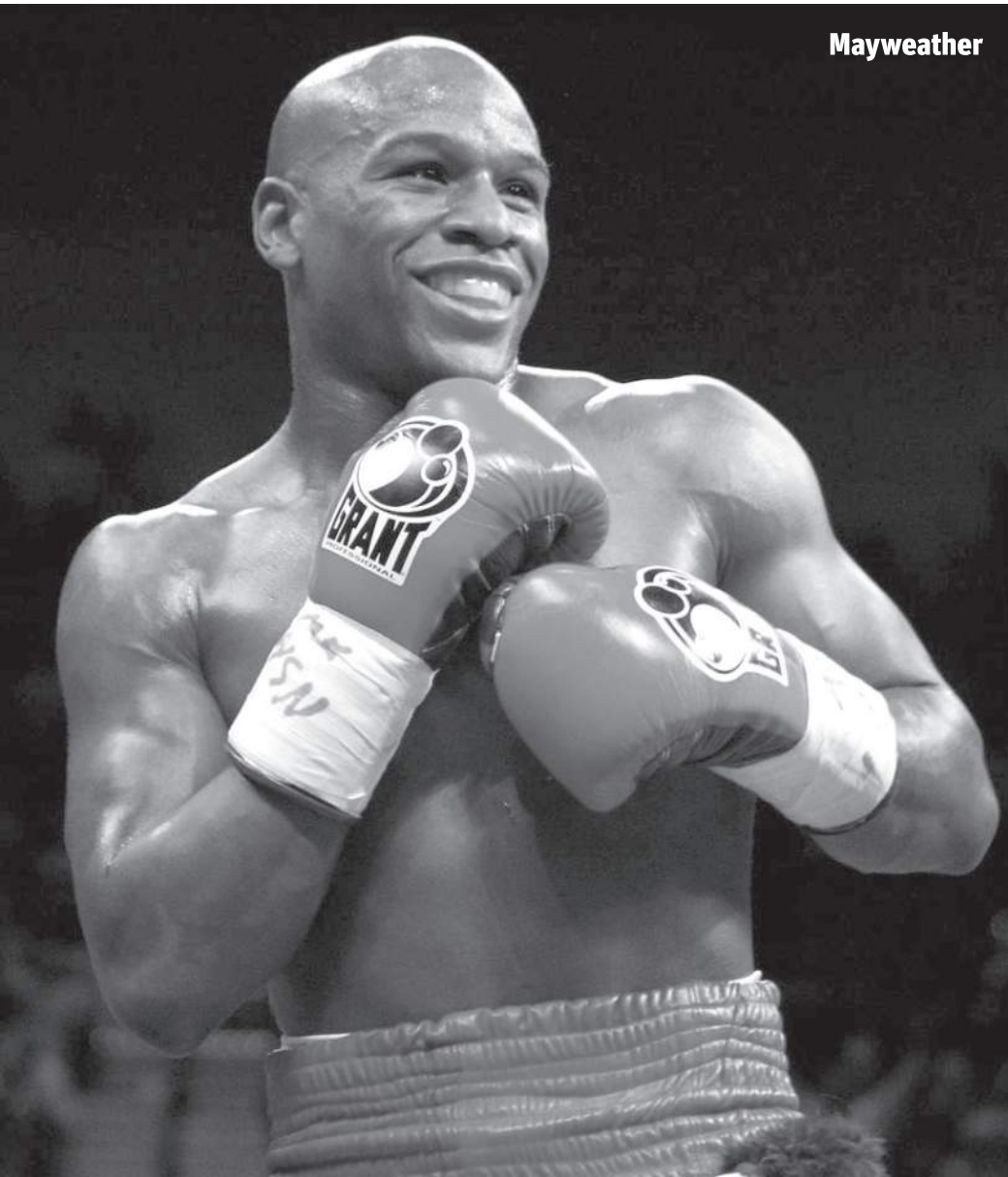
"I am not thinking about Manny Pacquiao," Mayweather told Agence France-Presse when asked about his possible opponents in the near future.

The unbeaten American may be running out of credible foes, but he continues to ignore calls by boxing fans that he fight the Filipino eight-division world champion.

Despite a bum decision loss to Timothy Bradley and a brutal knockout loss to Juan Manuel Marquez, Pacquiao is widely perceived to be the only fighter capable of putting a blot on Mayweather's immaculate 45-0 card.

For Pacquiao to appear on Mayweather's radar, though, the fighting congressman from Sarangani province must first dispose of Brandon Rios on Nov. 24 at The Venetian Macao.

Lawyer Jeng Gacal, Pacquiao's legal counsel and close aide who watched Mayweath-



er give the previously unbeaten Alvarez a virtual boxing clinic, said he is losing hope that the flamboyant American will fight Pacquiao.

"He (Mayweather) doesn't really want to risk his unblemished record," said Gacal, newly elected councilor of Gen. Santos City where Pacquiao plans to train initially for the Rios tiff.

Gacal said a new physical conditioning expert will arrive soon to replace Alex Ariza, who was fired by trainer Freddie Roach.

Meanwhile, Mayweather has been forced to apologize for an Instagram photo and caption that mocked former world champ and promoter Oscar de la Hoya's substance-abuse problem.

Mayweather apologized for the picture of a somber-looking de la Hoya which ran on his Instagram page Monday with the headline "MEANWHILE IN REHAB". The caption underneath the picture said, "OSCAR: 'I gave Canelo the wrong Blueprint I was high.'"

The 36-year-old American Mayweather described the incident as "stupid" and claimed the photo was posted without his knowledge. He did not go into detail about how it ended up on his Instagram account, or who might have put it there. The photo ultimately was deleted.

"It's unfortunate that a stupid picture was posted to my Instagram account earlier today that was not posted by me or authorized by me to post," Mayweather wrote in a state-

ment emailed to reporters by his public relation's firm.

"I apologize to Oscar and his family for this posting. I wish him well and am rooting for him to win his fight too. I also apologize to all of my followers for this ridiculous post."

Mayweather also stressed that he had wished Mexico's de la Hoya well at Saturday's post-fight news conference after Mayweather scored a majority decision in the main event over Saul Alvarez, who is promoted by de la Hoya.

It was just the second fight for Mayweather since he was released from prison after serving a sentence for assaulting the mother of his children.

Mayweather went on to say that he hopes de la Hoya recovers quickly.

But Mayweather has also previously admonished de la Hoya's fast-paced lifestyle and the promoter's track record with Golden Boy Promotions.

De la Hoya missed the Mayweather-Alvarez fight after checking himself into a treatment center last week.

Mayweather and de la Hoya fought in 2007 in a mega world title bout that set the record as most lucrative boxing match in history, with over \$130 million in generated revenues.

Mayweather won by a split decision to claim the world light middleweight title.

"Although we had our difference in the past, I stand by him unconditionally and would never personally disrespect him or anyone else who struggles with addiction," Mayweather's statement read. **(PDI)**

Fast-pitch softball league in the works

SOFTBALL The CNMI Softball Association would like to inform all interested individuals and/or team managers that the group

is planning to kick off the 2014 Men's Island Wide Fast-Pitch Softball League next month.

In preparation for the competition, the association would like to inform members, interested

individuals and/or team managers that there will be an organizational meeting on Sept. 23 at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium at 5:30pm. Election of officers and discus-

sion and planning for the upcoming league will be the main agenda for the scheduled meeting.

For more information, contact Robert A. Guerrero at 287-8680. **(PR)**

ROLLERS

From Page 28

The Rollers and Kagman Cougars played in the final game last Tuesday and the former came out more prepared in the win-or-go home match. The Rollers went on an 8-0 start and never looked back, while Kagman was held to two field goals and struggled to find the right combination on the floor before totally losing its semis chances in the third period.

The third canto started with the Rollers ahead by only 9, 26-17, however Prince Factor anchored a pivotal 14-2 run to break the Cougars' back, 40-19, going into the final two minutes of that frame. The Rollers went on to outgun the Cougars in the third period, 24-9, for a big 50-26 advantage.

Despite the huge lead, the Rollers was still relentless both on offense and defense, while the Cougars remained in disarray, making errors even on simple plays, like baseline inbounds.

C.J. Morales led the way for

the Rollers with his 21 points, while Factor added 13, and the rest of the players on coach Joe Diaz's roster all made it to the scoreboard.

John Santos paced Kagman with his 12 markers.

In the second game, Proa held the Ol'Aces to 9 points each in the second and third cantos to gain leverage and held on against the latter's rally in the fourth.

On offense, Dixon Kwon sizzled for Proa in the first half, drilling 12 in the opening canto to lift his team to a 17-10

lead. Kwon made it a 13-point advantage at the break, 32-19, as he added 6 more markers. Proa kept the double-digit spread in the third, 42-28, as the Ol'Aces was limited to four field goals anew. The Ol'Aces then made one final push in the fourth, but Proa scored some rally-halting baskets to stay in control of the match and march into the Final Four.

Proa was scheduled to face the Sonics in last night's second semis game or after the Final Four pairing between the Rollers and S.J. Ol'Aces.

CNMI

From Page 28

Islands, hereby advises that it intends to submit a bid to host the 2021 Pacific Mini Games," NMASA president Michael White stated in the letter.

The letter also mentioned that the CNMI is proposing 14 sports: athletics, football, golf, swimming, tennis, canoe, beach volleyball, baseball, weightlifting, sailing, triathlon, wrestling, indoor volleyball, and badminton.

As for the facilities, White

assured the Council that the CNMI have them in place and ready for use, while NMASA will soon coordinate with other stakeholders to ensure that transportation, accommodation, safety, and security off all delegates will be taken care off.

White also official announced the CNMI's bid during the NMASA meeting last Thursday at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. He said a committee will be formed next year to pursue the CNMI's hosting bid.

The NMASA head added

that besides the creation of the bid committee, clarifications on immigration issues will also be prioritized to help the CNMI succeed in its bid. Several athletes competing in the Games are non-U.S. passport holders or do not have US visa and to enter the CNMI, they must have either one. NMASA will be looking into details on how to secure a visa exemption for athletes and officials joining a sports competition.

In its failed bid in 2011, immigration issues were believed to be one of the factors that af-

fected the CNMI's attempt to host the Mini Games. As for the facilities, the CNMI received a good grade when Lakhan and Council executive director Andrew Minogue visited the Oleai Sports Complex, Marianas High School, and other venues on Saipan late in June.

About two months after the site visit, the hosting rights were put into a vote and the CNMI and Vanuatu went into a deadlock in the first round, getting eight votes apiece. Then in the deciding second round, Vanuatu got 13 against only 9 from the CNMI.

Second Game

Proa/Mariana Resort 50 – Kwon 25, Deleon Guerrero 8, Aguilar 7, Pamintuan 6, Hemley 2, Camacho 2.

Ol'Aces 43 – Nakashima 8, De Luna 7, Laniyo 6, Floresca 6, Kaipat 5, Darag 4, Cruz 2, Magofna 2, Faisao 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-10, 32-19, 42-28, 50-43.

Third Game

Rollers 72 – Morales 21, Factor 13, Arciaga 8, Aldan 6, Espinosa 6, Cayading 4, Pangelinan 4, Ano 2, Iglecias 2, Fidelino 2, Malonzo 2, Babauta.

Kagman Cougars 41 – Jo. Santos 12, Je Santos 7, Lampkin 5, Mettao 5, Palino 4, Malwelbug 1.

Scoring by quarters: 15-5, 26-17, 50-28, 72-41.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS				
AMERICAN LEAGUE East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	92	59	.609	—
Tampa Bay	82	67	.550	9
Baltimore	79	70	.530	12
New York	79	71	.527	12½
Toronto	68	81	.456	23
Central Division				
Detroit	87	63	.580	—
Cleveland	81	69	.540	6
Kansas City	79	71	.527	8
Minnesota	64	85	.430	22½
Chicago	59	91	.393	28
West Division				
Oakland	88	62	.587	—
Texas	81	68	.544	6½
Los Angeles	73	77	.487	15
Seattle	66	84	.440	22
Houston	51	99	.340	37
NATIONAL LEAGUE East Division				
Atlanta	89	62	.589	—
Washington	81	70	.536	8
Philadelphia	71	80	.470	18
New York	67	83	.447	21½
Miami	55	96	.364	34
Central Division				
St. Louis	88	63	.583	—
Pittsburgh	87	64	.576	1
Cincinnati	86	66	.566	2½
Milwaukee	67	83	.447	20½
Chicago	63	88	.417	25
West Division				
Los Angeles	87	64	.576	—
Arizona	76	74	.507	10½
San Diego	70	80	.467	16½
San Francisco	70	81	.464	17
Colorado	69	83	.454	18½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NMBA Players at the 2nd GNBF Friendship Tournament

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



Northern Marianas Badminton Association players pose with Guam players after the awards ceremony for the 2nd GNBF Annual Summer Friendship Badminton Tournament held early this month at the Dededo Sports Complex in Guam.



Loida Ito, left, and Shirley Kim, third left, pose with their foes.



NMBA players join the opening parade.



NMBA players pose with their trophies.



Players trade hi-fives after the match.



The trophies are on display on the final day of the competition.



Andreau Galvez, right, and Jexler Caranto, third left, pose with their opponents in the men's Level 2 finals.



Janelle Pangilinan, left, and Jen Savellano in action during the women's Level 2 finals.



Left, Ezekiel Macario and Jordan Pangilinan, second left, join their foes for a group photo.



NMBA female players pose with the host's players.



Nationals sweep Braves after tragedy

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Saipan Tribune Sports



Broncos become top team in AP Pro 32 poll

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Leina nails back-to-back wins

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CSU-Pueblo went 2-0 this season and so did its multi-awarded sophomore Leina Kim.

Kim topped the Rocky Mountain Athletics Conference Tournament No. 2 and towed the ThunderWolves to their second straight win of the season against 11 other schools in the Sept. 16 and 17 competition at Black Hill State in Spearfish, South Dakota.

Kim, who ruled the season-opening RMAC event early this month after shooting a school record 3-under par 69 in the second round and finishing the tournament held at the par-72 Desert Hawk Golf Course in West Pueblo with a 2-under par 142, went only 6-over par 148 in their first road competition. However, she had a bigger winning margin in the second tournament, prevailing by seven strokes against Western New Mexico's Arrianna Estrada (13-over par 155). In the season opener, the CNMI golfer escaped with two-shot victory over West Texas A&M's Glory Jangthongsiri (144) and bounced back from a three-stroke deficit in the first round against eventual third placer Judy Fapenfus, also of West Texas A&M.

While she came from behind in the RMAC opener, in the second tournament at the par-71 Spearfish Canyon Country Club, Kim, the Rookie and Golfer of the Year last season, took the early lead with her 2-over par 73. She was ahead by three strokes against teammate Julie Sanchez. Kim then carded the second-best score (4-over par 75) in the final round to clinch her second win of the season. Kim's teammate Michaela Breit topped the second round with a 2-over par 73, but logged an 83 in the first round to settle for third place. Dominique Dinallo was the third CSU-Pueblo player to break into the Top 5 after totaling 157 (79 and 78), while Sanchez fell to the No. 9 spot after collecting 162.

With four CSU-Pueblo golfers barging into the Top 10, the ThunderWolves recorded a bigger winning margin in their second tournament. CSU-Pueblo, which nipped West Texas A&M in the opener, 607-608, registered 623 (311 and 312) for a 34-shot victory over Colorado Mesa University, which tallied 657 (333 and 324).

Western New Mexico (668) finished third, followed by Montana St. Bailings (669), Regis University (678), Adams State University (690), UC Colorado Springs (690), Black Hills State (702), Chadron St. College (724), Metro State University (733), Colorado Christian University (735), and South Dakota Mines (780).

With its second consecutive win this season, Kim and company have ruled six of the last seven competitions in RMAC since the 2012-2013 season. The ThunderWolves hope to extend their winning run next week (Sept. 23 and 24) when they participate in the Western New Mexico Fall Intercollegiate at the Coldwater Creek Golf Course in Phoenix, Arizona.

Leina Kim is all smiles after getting the first place trophy in the Rocky Mountain Athletics Conference Tournament No. 2 early this week at the Black Hill State in Spearfish, South Dakota.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rollers completes Rotary Final Four



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Rollers' Prince Factor goes up for a reverse layup on a fastbreak play against the Kagman Cougars during their semis game in the U19 division of the Rotary caging last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The U19 division of the 22nd Annual Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League was down to the Final Four after the Rollers eliminated the Kagman Cougars, 72-41, last Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Rollers joined the de-

fending champions Sonics, Proa/ Mariana Resort, and pennant champion S.J. Ol'Aces to the semifinals. The S.J. Ol'Aces took the outright Final Four slot after topping the round-robin elimination, while the Sonics and Proa advanced following their 88-40 and 50-43 triumphs over the Rebelholics and Ol'Aces, respectively, in the first two play-off matches last Tuesday.

See ROLLERS on Page 26

CNMI to bid for 2021 Mini Games

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association is trying again to bring the Pacific Mini Games to the CNMI, as it submitted its letter of intent to host the competition in 2021.

NMASA, which had earlier made a bid for the 2017 Mini Games in 2011 but



White

lost to Vanuatu, turned over its letter of intent to Pacific Games Council president Vidhya Lakhan on Sept. 8 during a meeting in Wallis & Futuna.

"Pursuant to the provisions of Protocol 1.3 of the Games Management Protocols as set forth in the Pacific Games Charter, the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association, on behalf of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana See CNMI on Page 26